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FRIDAY'S JACKPOT
Lotto MAX
$30 MILLION estimated

CUSTODY BATTLE
MOM FACING DEPORTATION WITHOUT 9-WEEK-OLD BABY
{page 3}

SCANDAL
ANTI-GAY-MARRIAGE POLITICIAN DONATED HIS SPERM TO THREE LESBIAN WOMEN
{page 16}

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TORONTO metro®
Thursday, December 15, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Toronto. Saviour?

▶ The Argonauts officially introduced their new quarterback Ricky Ray at a news conference atop the CN Tower yesterday.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos see a Ray of hope

Veteran quarterback Ricky Ray says he was shocked when told by the Edmonton Eskimos he had been dealt to Toronto. The Argos are counting on Ray to kick-start a league-worst offence that saw them finish last in the East Division. Ray, the Eskimos' career passing leader, led Edmonton to two Grey Cup titles and was named the 2005 game MVP. **Story, page 56**

TTC approves 10¢ fare hike

▶ Riders say they'll be paying more to wait longer to board a more crowded bus ▶ Many angry with cutting climate pervading city hall

The Toronto Transit Commission last night approved a 10-cent fare hike effective Jan. 1 and restoration of full bus service on some busy routes like Finch, Dufferin and Don Mills.

The commission OK'd a compromise plan from the TTC chair, Coun. Karen Stintz, that uses $5 million in expected 2012 diesel-fuel savings to continue bus service. "The TTC management will go back and give us a breakdown on which routes will be maintained," Stintz said.

TTC chief general manager Gary Webster said the money would restore half the rush-hour bus service that had been on the chopping block. Transit advocates vowed to keep pushing council — which meets in mid-January to pass the city's budget — to come up with $14 million to keep current bus service operating.

The 10-cent fare hike, the first since January 2010, when fares went up 25 cents, will increase the adult token to $2.60. The cash fare remains at $3. For future TTC budgets, the commissioners granted their approval in principle to levy regular 10-cent fare increases in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

"We have record ridership, and every time we have record ridership we have additional costs."
KAREN STINTZ, TTC CHAIR

Also yesterday, the commission decided to find $2 million to continue Wheel-Trans service for about 800 ambulatory dialysis patients who need to make 5,000 trips a week for treatment. The dialysis trips would continue for the first six months of 2012.

Stintz said of the $5 million in expected diesel-fuel savings, $1.5 million would go to retain 2011 service standards through January and $3.3 million into retaining service on busy routes.

A complicating factor is that the TTC needs to buy 54 buses to maintain the higher level of bus service in 2013, Webster said.

About 80 people had signed up to share their outrage over the proposed service cuts. ACORN, a social-justice advocacy group, even delivered a seasonal sack of coal to the TTC board — one lump for each of 282 buses that will not be available to riders in 2012.

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Refugee mom could lose baby

Teen facing deportation back to Columbia ◗ Canadian father says baby should stay with him

A nine-week-old baby is at the centre of a custody fight between his Canadian father and refugee mother, who is facing deportation next month.

The dispute between Jessica Aristizabal Calrasco, 19, and Daniel Ricardo Velasquez, 21, raises the issue of what is best for their Canadian-born son, Jonathan, who is still being nursed by his mother.

"(The father) believes that it would be in the child's best interest that he has sole custody," Velasquez, an office cleaner and bartender, says in his written submission to Milton family court.

"The (father) is a Canadian citizen and the (mother) is not. The (father) is aware that it is likely that the (mother) may be deported to Columbia."

Aristizabal, along with her mother Claudia, sister Marcela, and aunt, Veronica Torres, are scheduled to be deported Jan. 2 after their refugee claim was denied.

However, a Jan. 6 court date has been set in Milton family court to settle the custody dispute. If the mother is deported as scheduled, she will have to leave without the baby.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Asylum rejected

- The family arrived in Canada in 2008 via the U.S.
- Aristizabal's mother, Claudia, alleged members of FARC, a guerilla army, killed her brother.
- Both Claudia Aristizabal and her sister-in-law claimed they were kidnapped and raped by the assailants.
- Officials rejected their asylum claim in 2009.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jessica Aristizabal Calrasco with her nine-week-old baby.

Hockey player kicked off team at Boston school after arrest

A Toronto native and college hockey star has been kicked off Boston University's hockey team after allegedly sexually assaulting a female student.

Corey Trivino, a New York Islanders second-round draft pick in 2008, was arraigned on charges that he forced his way into a female student's dorm room and repeatedly groped her Sunday night.

Trivino, 21, pleaded not guilty to all charges at his arraignment on Monday, which included indecent assault and battery, as well as assault with attempt to rape.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Corey Trivino

News in brief

York Region Transit workers to hit the streets

NEWMARKET. Hundreds of striking York Region Transit workers plan to take over the street in Newmarket today morning.

The Amalgamated Transit Union says part of Yonge Street in the town north of Toronto will be closed to traffic as workers march to a York Region council meeting.

Police will close Yonge Street northbound at Mulock Drive at 8 a.m. so the workers can march to the 9:30 a.m. meeting at regional headquarters. The strike, which affects more than 44,000 York Region commuters daily, is now into its eighth week. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

The Governor General is seeing to it that "Eddy" will be the first EduZone mascot in space.
Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Allan Small explains why the stimulus posture of the U.S. should be more enticing to investors than the rapid growth of emerging economies. metronews.ca/investing

Students pledge to stop bullying

About 9,000 attend 'largest anti-bullying event in Toronto history' Inspired to create 'culture of kindness'

They sat side by side at Ricoh Coliseum, by self-admission, the bullied and the bullies and those who've never been either.

Emceed by basketball freestyler Q-Mack (Quincy Mack), the "Ultimate Class Trip" was a mix of short speeches from politicians, education officials, students, motivational speakers and entertainers, interspersed with anti-bullying video clips from Lady Gaga and CBC personality Rick Mercer.

There were also performances from musicians, dancers, beatboxer J-Box, and popular sports figures. It was a package that kept the students in Grades 2 to 8 visibly engaged and involved.

But one of the most telling of exchanges was near the beginning of the almost three-hour event when Jacques St. Pierre, student council president at Etobicoke School for the Arts asked everyone to participate in an exercise.

"Close your eyes and raise your hands" if you've been bullied, he asked the students. A check around the stadium revealed that every row of students had some hands raised.

The 17-year-old student put out a second request. "Close your eyes and raise your hands if you've ever bullied … caused some pain, spread a rumour …'' asked St. Pierre.

At least an equal amount of hands went up.

"If you can admit to that, you can do something about it," said St. Pierre.

"We can do our best to make it better and take the pledge to make it better," said St. Pierre, to a round of cheers.

TDSB director Chris Spence asked the students for their help "to create a culture of kindness" in the school system.

"We need to work together to ensure that every classroom and every school is safe."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Students perform yesterday during a Toronto District School Board event to promote "character development'' and tackle the issue of bullying, at the Ricoh Coliseum.

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SAY CHEESE!

MAKE YOURSELF MORE PHOTOGENIC FOR THE INEVITABLE HOLIDAY SNAPS

Who among us hasn't felt like a paparazzi'd celebrity the day after a holiday party when you log onto Facebook to see you have been tagged in a dozen bleary-eyed, badly lit photos?

But anyone who has watched America's Next Top Model knows being photogenic isn't just about looking good — it's about convincing the camera you look good. Smile! Here are some tips for seducing the stills during the holidays.

KEEP IT AT EYE LEVEL: Never look down on the photographer. Literally. If you do, your chin skin will double down and you will look more like St. Nick than you intended. Look up, or straight at the camera, and pose yourself on a three-quarters angle to create the elfish image of slender health.

SIT UP STRAIGHT: Listen to your mother. Slouches are grouches. Sit or stand up straight and you will look more alert and healthy.

RELAX: If you hate having your picture taken and grimace in every shot, you will look unhappy in every shot. Take a deep breath, exhale, and send out some love for the photo. Picture your holiday crush.

STAGING: Look before you shoot. A plain white wall or reflective window will make you shine like road-glare ice. Select a spot with soft lighting and an attractive background for that warm fireside feel.

AVOIDANCE: Face it — if you go to a holiday party, your picture will be taken. If you really want to avoid the lenses of friends, hold your own photo-free holiday party with a saucy "What happens in my house, stays in my house" theme. Others find the best defence is a good offence — bring a big, bulky camera and hide behind it as you return fire. This will discourage people from shooting you and you can retain some privacy when they do.

MORE ONLINE

For more tips about photos and a celebrity photo gallery, see lifestyle.msn.ca.

HOLD ON TO GREAT MOMENTS

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AG to probe airlift service execs' pay

ORNGE discloses a few executive salaries under $300K Air ambulance service maintains it obeys law

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Health minister Deb Matthews.

Ontario's auditor general is investigating the secrecy surrounding executive salaries at ORNGE, the province's taxpayer funded air ambulance service.

Health minister Deb Matthews asked the auditor to step in this week after the Toronto Star discovered Matthews and her staff have unsuccessfully tried to solve the mystery for a year.

"As we unpeel the ORNGE I am learning more," Matthews said in an interview.

Ontario's public salary disclosure act or "Sunshine Law" requires government funded entities to reveal salaries of $100,000 or more as a way to let the public know how its dollars are spent. ORNGE will not say how much President and CEO Chris Mazza and as many as five other top officials earn.

ORNGE says it is obeying the law because they disclosed salaries of operational staff at ORNGE. Mazza and others who do not disclose their salaries work for one of a number of for-profit consulting companies the non-profit air provincial ambulance service created, a spokesman said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Jolly. Plane

▶ Aleisha Hunter, five, waits for Santa as he makes his way down the aisle of a plane. Aleisha, from Cambridge, Ont., is among the youngest known breast cancer survivors. At the age of three, she had a left-breast mastectomy for a rare form of the disease.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sick kids take flight to 'North Pole'

The Starlight Children's Foundation Canada held its annual North Pole flight yesterday. Approximately 70 children and their families boarded a private jet for the hour-long flight to the 'North Pole' and had a visit from Santa along the way. The charity is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses and injuries by providing entertainment, education and family activities that help them cope with their prolonged illness.

Police watchdog undermined: Ombudsman

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Ombudsman Andre Marin delivers a report to the media at Queen's Park yesterday.

Ruth Schaeffer spent her life's savings seeking justice in the courts for her son who was shot dead by Ontario Provincial Police two years ago.

She was forced to do so because the province's Special Investigations Unit could not prove wrongdoing by the officers, who prepared case notes under the supervision of their lawyer.

In a scathing 63-page report, Ombudsman Andre Marin charged the ministry of the attorney general actively undermines the SIU, which probes police-related deaths, serious injuries and sexual assaults.

"I will never know the circumstances of my son's death. As a family we're really reeling from that. They killed him and as a Canadian living in Ontario I don't have a right to know why my son was killed," Schaeffer said yesterday at Queen's Park.

Choking back tears after the release of Marin's report, she said she's "absolutely furious" with the government over its handling of the June 24, 2009 death of her schizophrenic son, Levi, 30, in remote northern Ontario.

"It's the ministry of the attorney general's job to make sure that the police comply with SIU regulations. It's not my job," said Schaeffer, whose son died during an investigation into a Pickle Lake boat theft after police claimed he brandished a 10 cm knife.

The Schaeffers and the family of Douglas Minty, 59 — a mentally ill man killed by the OPP in Elmvale, near Barrie, on June 22, 2009 — last month won an Ontario Court of Appeal decision ending the practice of officers vetting their notes with a lawyer before sharing them with the SIU.

While they received some court-ordered compensation, it has not covered all their legal bills.

Newly appointed Attorney General John Gerretsen, who succeeded Chris Bentley after the Oct. 6 election, was non-committal on revamping laws.

"There are always improvements that can be made to any system and whether or not legislation is in the offing remains to be seen," he said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Marin report

- "The ministry has failed the SIU and by doing so it has failed the public and the police. For a bulwark of democracy, the SIU's legal foundation is embarrassingly flimsy," Marin said.
- Among his 16 recommendations: The SIU "should be reconstituted under new legislation specifically dealing with its mandate and investigative authority."
- Police officers who fail to cooperate with or obstruct SIU investigations should also be fined or imprisoned, Marin said.

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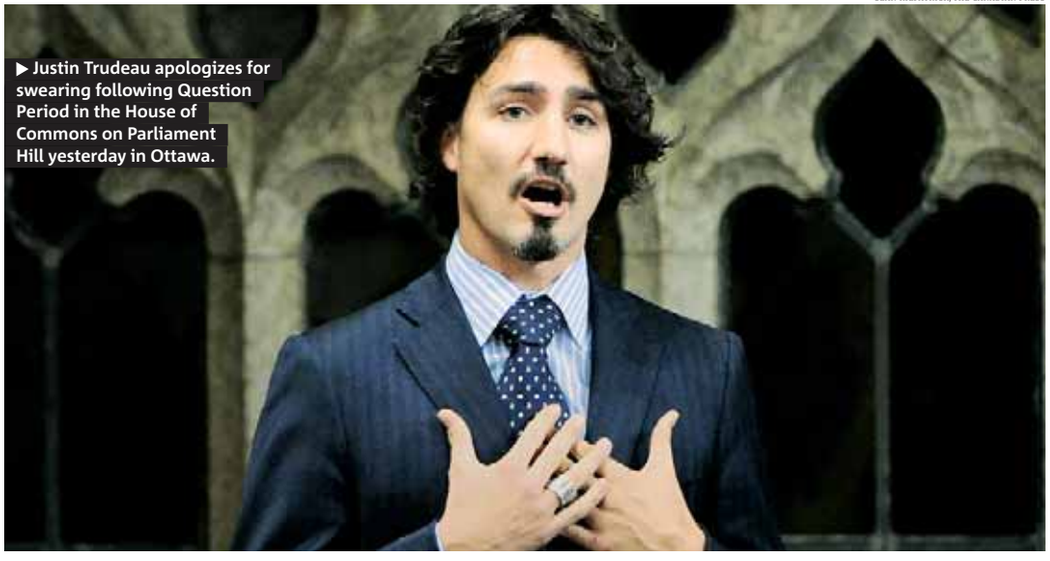
Justin Trudeau offers apology after swearing

The Liberal MP caused an uproar in the House of Commons after he shouted an expletive at Environment Minister Peter Kent

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Justin Trudeau apologizes for swearing following Question Period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill yesterday in Ottawa.

Within seconds, Justin Trudeau's crude outburst to Peter Kent in the Commons yesterday was perfectly captured by a Twitter writer: "shiddle-diddle."

After Conservative Environment Minister Peter Kent scolded an NDP critic for failing to attend the climate change conference in Durban, Liberal MP Justin Trudeau says he lost it.

Outraged because Kent had refused to allow Opposition critics to travel as part of Canada's delegation, Trudeau hollered across the aisle: "Oh, you piece of shit!"

"This is — this is a government that has such total disrespect for the truth and for parliamentary traditions that I allowed myself to behave in an unparliamentary manner and I apologize."
LIBERAL MP JUSTIN TRUDEAU

An uproar ensued on the government benches.

There was no denial from the heir to Pierre Elliot Trudeau's foul-mouthed mantle.

A seemingly contrite Trudeau stood after Question Period to unequivocally apologize.

"I lost my temper and used language that was most decidedly unparliamentary and for that I unreservedly apologize."

Kent demanded a fuller apology to the House. Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer said it was enough.

Outside the Commons, Liberals and NDP vented "frustrations" and pointed fingers at the government.

New Democrat Megan Leslie — whom Kent had originally targeted — defended Trudeau.

"I think it was an honest reaction. He apologized for it. I just wish that the Conservatives would actually talk about issues and stop with the name calling and these kinds of dirty tricks. It's really shameful." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Tweets

Here is a sampling of what the Twitterverse had to say about Justin Trudeau's comments in the House of Commons:

- **@metronome:** Trudeaus using foul language in Parliament: a part of our heritage.
- **@colewhogan:** What's worse, unparliamentary language or preventing parliament from functioning entirely?
- **@Bortology:** More of this and I might just vote lib.
- **@ThatShaneDavis:** Justin Trudeau, I want to like you. Calling Kent a "piece of sh--" during QP greatly tarnishes your character. Decorum in Parliament, please.
- **@EmmMacfarlane:** It's either increasingly awkward or just more fun to teach students about Question Period. I haven't decided.
- **@jafrazworth:** Disagree w/@justinpjtrudeau calling Peter Kent a POS — sh*t actually helps the environment via biodegradation.
- **@BryanLCrockett** Justin Trudeau. You are fantastic!
- **@kylemlambert:** This is exactly what the opposition needs to do more of. Forget decorum, you have to get noticed. Good for Justin Trudeau.
- **@ookpiktoque:** Justin Trudeau has to apologize for swearing but Peter Kent doesn't for pulling out of Kyoto ... (what the fuddle duddle)?
- **@TomKott:** So what did we learn from #QP today? Excessively apologizing is not just a Canadian stereotype, it's a reality.
- **@MikeMcD76:** I think Opposition MP's should curse more often since it seems to be the only way to get some peoples' attention on major issues.

Web videos popular with Canadians

Every day, the average Canadian Internet user spends about an hour watching 10 videos online, according to new numbers from measurement firm comScore.

Once again, comScore named Canadians as the most avid viewers of online video, with users aged 15 and older watching an average of 303.7 videos in October.

That compares to 286.3 videos per user in the U.S., 268.8 in the U.K., about 250 in Germany and Turkey, 222.7 in Japan, 190.1 in France, 178.6 in Spain, 160 in Hong Kong and 153.2 in Singapore.

For TV shows that have ads embedded within, comScore counts each segment of the show as one view.

The amount of time spent watching online video doubled since October 2010, when Canadians spent just under half an hour viewing an average of almost seven videos a day.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Thursday, December 15

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PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Max Mosley has been fighting for his privacy ever since a British tabloid published a story and video in 2008 featuring Mosley in a German prison camp-themed private sex party.

Trying to limit Max exposure

Google sued by former Formula One head Mosley over sex party searches

Former Formula One racing head Max Mosley is suing Google to get information he doesn't like off user searches.

The 71-year-old has been fighting for his privacy ever since a British tabloid published a story and video in 2008 featuring Mosley in a German prison camp-themed private sex party.

First, Mosley went after the newspaper that broke the story. Since then, he has escalated his attacks against media, culminating in two dozen lawsuits involving Google in Europe and, potentially, California.

Despite the negative publicity against media garnered by the phone hacking scandal in England, observers feel Mosley doesn't stand a chance in this fight with Google.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Putin presidental opponent can't buy Russian media firm

IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mikhail Prokhorov

The owner of the New Jersey Nets, who is running against Vladimir Putin in Russia's presidential election, tried without success yesterday to buy a leading media holding company in the country.

Mikhail Prokhorov, who is worth about $18 billion US according to Forbes magazine, announced his candidacy earlier this week for the March presidential election.

Prokhorov offered to buy Russia's Kommersant publishing house, but its owner, Alisher Usmanov, said he doesn't plan to sell it.

"We're not going to sell the Kommersant publishing house," Usmanov told reporters. He said that he instead offered to buy Prokhorov's stake in the RBK media group, a competitor of Kommersant's.

He did not say how Prokhorov had responded.

On Tuesday, Usmanov fired an editor and a senior manager after the Kommersant Vlast weekly published an article about alleged fraud in Russia's Dec. 4 parliamentary election and a photo of a ballot containing vulgar words directed at Putin. The weekly's editor, Maxim Kovalsky, said he was told that's why he was fired. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

What's to 'like'? Not the Obama girls

Don't expect to find the U.S. president's daughters on Facebook anytime soon.

President Barack Obama says in an interview with People Magazine that he does not let his daughters, 13-year-old Malia and 10-year-old Sasha, use the popular social networking website.

Obama says his daughters say they would not want to have a lot of people they don't know knowing their business.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

LYNN CHAMBERLAIN/UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE SERVICES/AP

▶ A surviving grebe.

Birds die in parking lot

CRASH LANDING. Thousands of birds died on impact after apparently mistaking a Walmart parking lot and areas of southern Utah for bodies of water and plummeting to the ground in what one wildlife expert called the worst downing she's ever seen.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google works to end slavery

RECORD GRANT. Tech giant Google announced yesterday it is donating $11.5 million to several coalitions fighting to end the modern-day slavery of some 27 million people around the world.

It is believed to be the largest-ever corporate grant devoted to the advocacy, intervention and rescue of people being held, forced to work or provide sex against their will. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Freak accident kills woman

DEATH BY DRAGGING. A woman was killed in a freak elevator mishap yesterday around 10 a.m. in a 26-storey office tower near New York City's Grand Central Terminal. The woman was stepping onto the elevator on the first floor when either her foot or leg became caught in the closing doors. The car then rose abruptly, dragging her body into the shaft and killing her.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police shave, arrest punks to teach lesson

Muslim hardliners cut off mohawks of rock fans to enforce moral values ◐ Police crack down on 'disgusting' lifestyle

Police in Indonesia's most conservative province raided a punk-rock concert and detained dozens of fans, buzzing off their spiky mohawks and stripping away body piercings because of the perceived threat to Islamic values.

Dog-collar necklaces and chains were taken from the youths before they were thrown in pools of water for "spiritual" cleansing, local police Chief Iskandar Hasan said yesterday.

After replacing their "disgusting" clothes, he handed each a toothbrush and barked "use it."

The crackdown marked the latest effort by authorities to promote strict moral values in Aceh, the only province in this secular but predominantly Muslim nation of 240 million to have imposed Islamic laws.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Punks sit in a pool in a police school compound after their heads were shaved in Aceh province, Indonesia.

Police story

- **Baton-wielding police** scattered fans, many of whom had travelled from other parts of the sprawling archipelagic nation to attend the show.
- **Police said** 59 young men and five women were loaded into vans and brought to a police detention centre.
- **They would spend** 10 days getting rehabilitation, training in military-style discipline and religious classes, including Qur'an recitation, police officials said. Afterward, they'll be sent home.
- **While the men's heads were shaved**, the women, some in tears, were given short, blunt bobs.

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New Nazi search kicks off

Up to $32,900 US in reward money up for grabs in hunt for war criminals

The Simon Wiesenthal Center yesterday launched an 11th-hour drive to find and prosecute Nazi war criminals while they are still alive, saying a new legal precedent in Germany could make it possible to bring dozens to trial.

"Time is running out," said Efraim Zuroff, the centre's top Nazi-hunter.

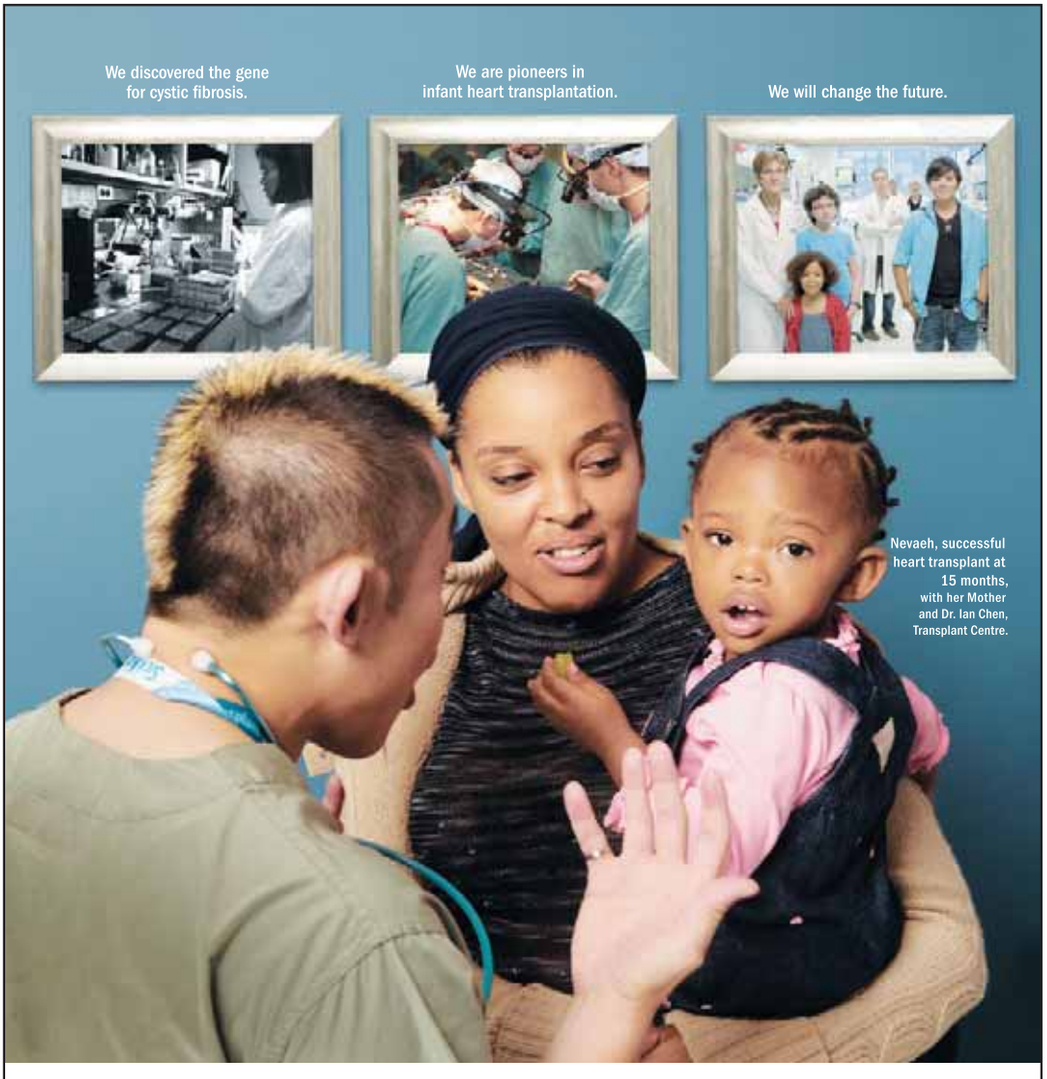
Operation Last Chance II comes after German prosecutors said in October the successful conviction of former Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk had set a precedent that allowed them to reopen hundreds of dormant investigations.

Demjanjuk, 91, was convicted in May of thousands of counts of accessory to murder after a Munich court found he served as a death camp guard — the first time a suspect had been found guilty without evidence of a specific crime. The court ruled that any guard at a Nazi camp whose sole purpose was to kill people could be convicted of accessory to murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK RALSTON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Dr. Efraim Zuroff, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's chief investigator of Nazi war criminals.



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Israel cracking down on Jewish extremists

URIEL SINAI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's prime minister yesterday ordered a crackdown on Jewish extremists believed to be responsible for a wave of violence and vandalism against Israeli soldiers and Muslim mosques.

The move followed the arrest of suspected extremists and an attack on a disused mosque.

Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that he had accepted recommendations made by his cabinet ministers to stop the disturbances.

The measures grant soldiers the ability to make arrests, ban extremists from contentious areas and enable rioters to be tried in military courts.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli police arrested six suspected Jewish extremists in a raid in Jerusalem.

The crackdown came hours after arsonists torched a Jerusalem mosque in an overnight attack. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the six suspects, who appeared to be in their late teens or early 20s, were detained in connection to "recent events" but were not believed to be involved in the latest mosque attack.

The Israeli government has vowed to punish assailants who in recent months have vandalized military bases, mosques, cemeteries, farmlands and cars in the West Bank and Israel proper.

The attacks are believed to be the work of Jewish extremists who are upset over government policies that they feel are unfairly biased in favour of Palestinians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prisoner swap

- Also yesterday, the Israeli prison service posted the list of 550 Palestinian prisoners set to be freed as the second stage of a swap between Israel and Gaza Hamas militants.
- In October, one Israeli soldier was freed in exchange for freedom for more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israel is set to release 550 prisoners Sunday in the second phase of the deal.

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U.S. politician caught in sperm donor scandal

Bill Johnson tells lesbians he impregnated that he'll support them and their children ◗ Has campaigned against same-sex marriage

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Bill Johnson, right, impregnated at least three women with his donated sperm, saying his desire to father children was "a need I have." He is pictured in this screengrab from his 2009 campaign for governor of Alabama.

The secret online sperm-donor account of a U.S. conservative Christian anti-gay-marriage politician has been closed but the fallout continues from exposure of his double life.

Bill Johnson, a 2009 candidate for governor of Alabama, impregnated at least three lesbians with his donated sperm in New Zealand and helped three more, the New Zealand Herald revealed.

Johnson, confronted with the evidence, admitted to the newspaper that his desire to father children was "a need I have."

He has been married since 2004 to two-time Mrs. America finalist Kathy Johnson. She has three children from a previous marriage and had a hysterectomy 10 years ago.

"He knows I am shocked and deeply hurt and even angry," Kathy Johnson told the paper. "I didn't know about these women. I wonder if they knew he has a wife back home who cherishes our marriage and three children who look up to and respect him as a dad."

The Herald also talked to some of the women who received Johnson's donated sperm. One called him a "godsend" because lesbians often find it hard to find sperm donors online.

Johnson told one lesbian couple, "I am in Christchurch and would be glad to try to help." To a young mother who wanted another child and "possible co-parenting," he asked: "Where are you located?"

Johnson is in New Zealand working on earthquake repair for disaster recovery company Ceres International, based in Minnesota.

He said he intended to support women who delivered children he had fathered and wanted to be involved in their upbringing. "I'll be just as much a parent to them as they want me to be, as I am to my own children," he said.

Meanwhile, Kathy Johnson said she wasn't sure her marriage could survive "what I feel is the utmost of betrayal."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Syrian regime like 'dead man walking': U.S.

The Obama administration is predicting the downfall of Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose authoritative regime has engaged in a brutal crackdown on pro-reform demonstrators.

"Our view is that this regime is the equivalent of dead man walking," Frederic Hof, a senior State Department official, told Congress yesterday. He added that Syria was turning into "Pyongyang in the Levant," a reference to the North Korean capital. He said it was difficult to determine how much time Assad has left in power but stressed, "I do not see this regime surviving."

The comments came as violence across Syria killed at least 25 people yesterday.

Hof urged the Syrian opposition to prepare for the day when it takes control of the state in order to prevent chaos and sectarian conflict.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Witches arrested for extortion

Two self-professed witches were detained in Romania on extortion charges yesterday in a case involving a TV star and other public figures.

Police spokesman Christian Ciocan said the women approached public figures promising to help them overcome work or love difficulties, and help them break curses. Initially they charged very little, but as their victims became hooked on their services, they upped their prices.

One victim — TV star Oana Zavoranu — handed over about $600,000 in cash and property in exchange for spells, Ciocan said.

He said if the victims tried to cease payment, the women would threaten to put a spell on them or tell their secrets.

Many people believe in witchcraft in Romania. This month, Nicolae Paun, a member of Parliament, called for legislation to stop what he called "backward practices."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese carrier caught on camera

A U.S. satellite has captured a photo of China's first aircraft carrier in the Yellow Sea off the Chinese coast, the owner of the satellite said yesterday.

DigitalGlobe Inc. said the carrier was photographed on Dec. 8 while on a sea trial. The ship has generated intense international interest because of what it might portend about China's intentions as a military power.

China has said the carrier is intended for research and training.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway's butter spread thin

Norwegians have eaten up the country's entire stockpile of butter, partly as the result of a low-carb, fat-rich diet sweeping the nation. The soaring demand for butter used in Christmas dishes has also contributed to the shortage, leading the government to slash import duties on the product this week. The shortage has led to several arrests for customs offences, with butter smugglers crossing the border from Sweden. Hawkers have been offering Swedish butter for 400 kroner a kilogram (almost $70) — about six times the normal price.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupiers arraigned in New York

Nearly 200 people arrested during Occupy Wall Street protests were in New York City courtrooms yesterday, answering charges related to a Brooklyn Bridge march that drew global attention to their campaign. The 166 people arraigned took part in the Oct. 1 march that marked the biggest mass arrest of the movement so far. Police said the protesters ignored warnings not to leave a pedestrian path and go onto the roadway. Many took a judge's offer to get their cases dismissed if they avoid getting arrested again for six months.

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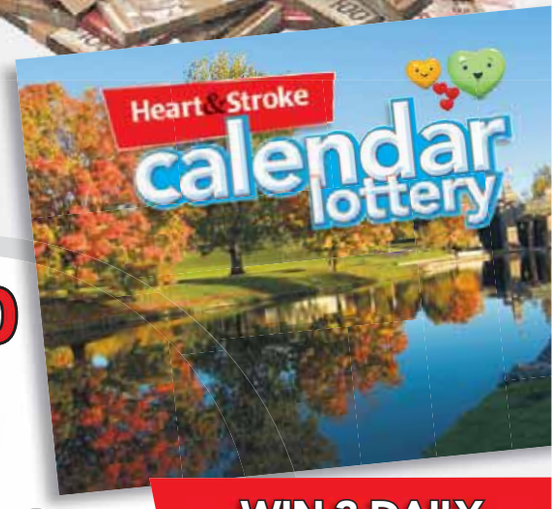

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Cyber-hate fuels free-speech debate

Human-rights law in Canada under review, pitting advocates against defenders of free speech

A section of Canada's human-rights code that protects against hate speech on the Internet is under attack on two fronts just as three accused neo-Nazis in British Columbia face charges of vicious, racist assaults.

An appeal got underway in Federal Court in Toronto this week scrutinizing Section 13 of the Human Rights Act, which says it's discriminatory to spread hate messages online. The case pits human-rights advocates against defenders of free expression.

Meanwhile, federal Tories are seeking to kill the provision via a private member's bill in the House of Commons.

But those who keep an eye on incidents of hate are worried that if those provisions of the act are killed, Canada could see more incidents like the setting on fire of a Filipino man in Vancouver.

Hate on the rise

The Internet now disseminates the racists' rallying call, said Richard Warman, one of three parties in the appeal case. He contends Section 13 must stay intact.

- **Statistics Canada** found Canadian police forces reported a rise of 42 per cent in hate-based incidents in 2009, as compared to 2008, and more than half were based on race.

Police recently announced the arrests of two men in their 20s and a 30-year-old in connection with that assault and three others against minorities in Vancouver. Investigators allege the trio are members of Blood and Honour, a white-supremacist group.

Other proponents of free speech want the law axed.

"The best defence against so-called 'hate speech' is not government enforcement of vague prohibitions, but an educated and alert citizenry and vigilant and responsible media," Charles Foran, president of PEN Canada, an association of writers and supporters who defend freedom of expression.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexual. Slavery

▶ Kil Un-ock, right, a South Korean woman who was forced to serve the Japanese army as a sexual slave during the Second World War, shouts slogans in Seoul yesterday, demanding an official apology and compensation from the Japanese government.

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Comfort women' demand apology

Protesters in Seoul placed a statue of a girl representing victims of Japanese Second World War-era sexual slavery in front of the Japanese Embassy yesterday as South Korean President Lee Myung-bak prepared to visit Tokyo.

Fraternity under investigation

A University of Vermont fraternity has been suspended while officials investigate allegations that it circulated a survey that asked members who they would like to rape.

Members of the Vermont chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon would not discuss the allegations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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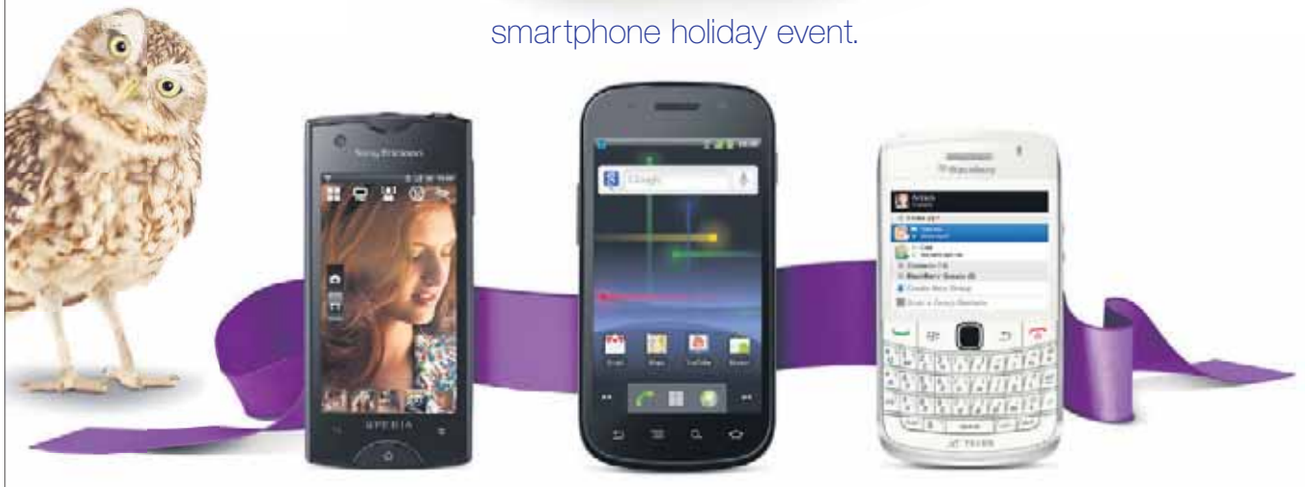

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Belgium. Attack

▶ Women cry yesterday as they sit at a bus stop where a grenade-lobbing gunman killed five people and injured 123 in the city of Liege, Belgium.

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liege gunman's death toll rises to five

The body of a 45-year-old woman has been found in a shed where grenade-lobbing gunman Nordine Amrani, 33, grew cannabis close to his home in Liege, Belgian officials said yesterday. The woman, believed to be a cleaning lady, was shot in the head. Two male students, aged 15 and 17, and a 75-year-old woman died in the attack in the city centre. An 18-month-old toddler died Tuesday evening in hospital, Liege police said. Several people are in intensive care.

Millions of women in U.S. victims of abuse

Centers for Disease Control study suggests 1.3 million suffered rape, attempted rape or had sex forced on them

One in four U.S. women say they have been hit hard, kicked or otherwise violently attacked by their intimate partners, according to a government survey released yesterday that offers startling findings about domestic violence.

The new look at how many women say they've been abused offers some numbers that are higher than previous reports.

One expert called the report's estimate on rape and attempted rape "extremely high" — with one in five women saying they were victims. About half of those cases involved intimate partners.

Advocates say rape has been vastly underreported in the past and the new numbers are plausible. No documentation was sought to verify the women's claims, which were made anonymously.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report is based on a randomized telephone survey of about 9,000 women.

Several of the CDC numbers are higher than those of other sources.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some findings

- About 29 million women say they have suffered severe violence from an intimate partner, including being choked, beaten, stabbed, shot, punched or hurt by hair-pulling.
- That grows to 36 million if slapping, pushing and shoving are counted.
- Almost half who reported rape or attempted rape said it happened when they were 17 or younger.

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Shafia son ends day with hug request

After testifying on behalf of parents accused of murdering sisters, youth asks judge permission to hug parents ◐ Crown accuses man of lying to officials

After a lengthy and withering cross-examination during which he was accused of conspiring with his family to fabricate alibis, a surviving son of a couple accused of killing three of their daughters finished his court testimony by asking for a hug.

The son of the Montreal couple, who are accused along with their other son of committing so-called honour killings, testified this week for the defence at the Shafia family murder trial and was subject to more than a full day of cross-examination.

Crown attorney Gerard Laarhuis suggested that the son, who can't be named due to a court order, has lied to and manipulated authority figures in the past and may not have been telling the truth on the stand, saying his memory seems to be selectively improving to remember only details that help his parents and brother.

Tooba Yahya, 42, and her husband Mohammad Shafia, 58, are charged alongside their eldest son, Hamed, 20, with four counts of first-degree murder. They have each pleaded not guilty.

They're accused of killing Shafia sisters, Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, along with Rona Amir Mohammad, 52, Shafia's other wife in a polygamous marriage, over family honour.

At the end of the surviving son's third day on the stand, defence lawyer Peter Kemp, who called the him to testify, re-examined him yesterday morning. Though much was suggested by Laarhuis, it was the son who raised a suggestion that he was involved in the actual deaths.

"You've been cross-examined quite extensively by Mr. Laarhuis with respect to a conspiracy or an agreement to fabricate evidence or make up evidence ... to help your parents and your brother," Kemp said. "What do you have to say about that?"

"That we helped in the murders, is that right?" the son said. He and the rest of his family maintain the deaths were an accident, a late-night joy ride turned tragic.

Moments later, after the judge told him he could step down, the son turned to Judge Robert Maranger and asked if he could have permission to hug his parents goodbye.

Laarhuis referenced ongoing discussions about the matter, and said, "Now's not the time," causing the mother to burst into tears in the prisoner's box.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shafia trial

- **When the son took the stand** this week it was the first time he had seen his parents and brother since the surviving Shafia children were removed from the home by child protection authorities the day before the arrests.
- **Three members of the Shafia family** are accused of killing three daughters and the first wife over family honour.

LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mohammad Shafia, Hamed Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya arrive at the Frontenac county courthouse in Kingston yesterday.

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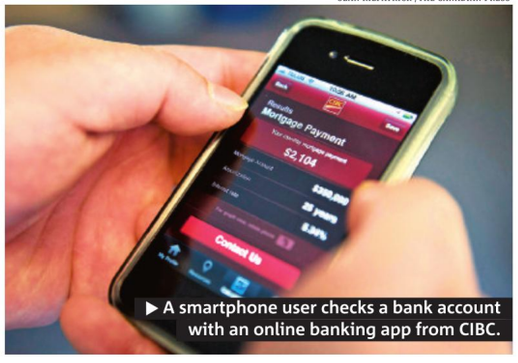
Smartphone banking growing on Canadians

Poll finds biggest reason users avoid mobile banking is security Others say they find online easier to use

SEAN KILPATRICK /THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A smartphone user checks a bank account with an online banking app from CIBC.

Most Canadians still aren't pulling out their phones to check their bank account balances and pay bills but experts and users alike expect a whole lot more will be doing so in 2012.

Bryan Segal, vice-president of the digital measurement firm comScore, says about 13 per cent of Canada's mobile users now access their banking on their phone on a monthly basis, which is roughly on par with the U.S. market and ahead of the European Union.

Given that comScore recently pegged the Canadian mobile market at 20.1 million customers strong, that suggests we're nearing three million Canadians using mobile banking.

TD Bank and RBC had the biggest chunk of the market, with 26.7 per cent and 25.7 per cent of mobile banking users, followed by CIBC with 17 per cent, Scotiabank with 13.2 per cent and ING Direct with 9.8 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians prepared to spend: TD

TD Canada Trust says Canadians have built up a financial cushion going into the holiday season, thanks to a penchant for putting extra dollars aside. The bank says a survey suggests 53 per cent were setting aside at least 10 per cent of each paycheque as the season began. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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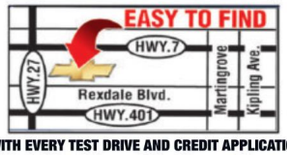

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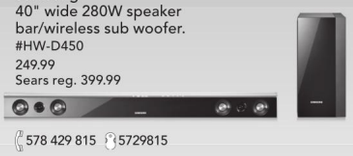

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IGNORING KYOTO, ONE LESS COUNTRY AT A TIME

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I, for one, was inspired by the Kyoto Protocol, which ushered in a bold new era in which countries throughout the world put aside their differences and worked together to ignore the Kyoto Protocol.

It's rare you see that kind of teamwork outside of arms deals.

The Conservatives pulled Canada out of Kyoto this week, and it would be easy to mock them (fun, too), but this is a failure we all share in.

When the Kyoto deal was signed in 1997, we talked about the deal as if something really exceptional had happened that would unite humanity — like the end of nuclear weapons or a Saved by the Bell reunion special.

"Global warming is too slow, too subtle for humans. Us rats, we don't understand risk-reward if the electric shock comes decades later."

We were breathlessly told that we'd be able to breathe again, all thanks to 160 signatories sending the amount of greenhouse gases back to the halcyon days of the 1980s.

The U.S., showing its usual world leadership, got the failure started when George W. Bush said the protocol was "economically irresponsible" — a description that looked a little short-sighted when New Orleans did its imitation of the SpongeBob SquarePants mise-en-scène.

At the time, Canada took its usual official diplomatic position toward the U.S. of being smug. According to WikiLeaks, Paul Martin's official cable to the U.S. was "Tsk, tsk, tsk." Canada's greenhouse-gas record was as bad as America's but we left that part out, as one does.

Some blame goes to the accord's writers, too: We should have known Kyoto was doomed as soon as we heard there were environmental "credits" that could be used to offset actually helping the environment — a sort of frequent-polluter points card. Getting out of pollution standards because you are planting trees, say, seems to me like getting out of a speeding ticket in the morning because you plan to drive under the speed limit in the afternoon.

Finally, of course, there's you. Did you do anything worthy of an environmental award since 1997? Recycling and composting only gets you a Certificate of Attendance.

Global warming is too slow, too subtle for humans. Us rats, we don't understand risk-reward if the electric shock comes decades later.

I'm still hopeful. Everyone seems to value the environment, even if they weren't on board for Kyoto. One-hundred-and-sixty countries failed in Japan, but it could be different now. If we really believe, we could get 190, maybe 200 countries on the road to probable failure this time. When it comes to world diplomacy, this is progress.

(Deep breaths, everyone. Deep breaths.)

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

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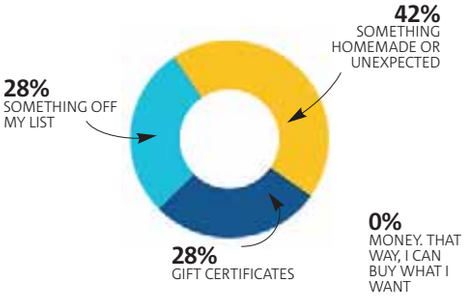

Local tweets

- **@ookpiktoque:** Justin Trudeau has to apologize for swearing but Peter Kent doesn't for pulling out of Kyoto. WTF (what the fuddle duddle)? #cdnpoli
- **@donaldblair:** Sh--tle fuddle duddle whatever. Trudeau proves: like father, like son. So much for #lpc being anti-bully.
- **@KristenThom:** Justin Trudeau looks like one of the Three Musketeers.
- **@bryonwilfert:** Trudeau frustrated with Minister of Environment - join the club! If that is the worst that is said of him - big deal Critical issue #cdnpoli
- **@lukesimulacrum:** @JamesMoore_org Justin Trudeau is clearly a radical extremist.
- **@kathleenperoff:** Skinner, Michaelk join Giroux, and Crosby. When will the @nhl finally acknowledge the head hits/concussion issue?
- **@BrianJSalvador:** Suddenly every injury in the #NHL is a concussion...
- **@APetrielli:** @MapleLeafsHH Excitement level is up for debate (I like hitting too) but it would undeniably bring concussion numbers down.

Daily Zoom

GETTY IMAGES

All quiet on the Baghdad front

U.S. leaving Iraq via Kuwait route

KUWAIT. U.S. army soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division walk to a waiting bus as they leave customs for a ride to the airport to fly back to Fort Hood, Texas. They exited Iraq yesterday at Camp Virginia in Kuwait City. President Obama is meeting Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to ceremonially mark the end of the war.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I'm proud to finally say these two words — welcome home."

BARACK OBAMA TOLD CHEERING TROOPS AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

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American troops were present in Iraq when Obama took office. Within 15 days, there will be zero left. Some 4,483 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the conflict started, while nearly 30,000 have been injured. The Iraq war cost the U.S. approximately $1 trillion.

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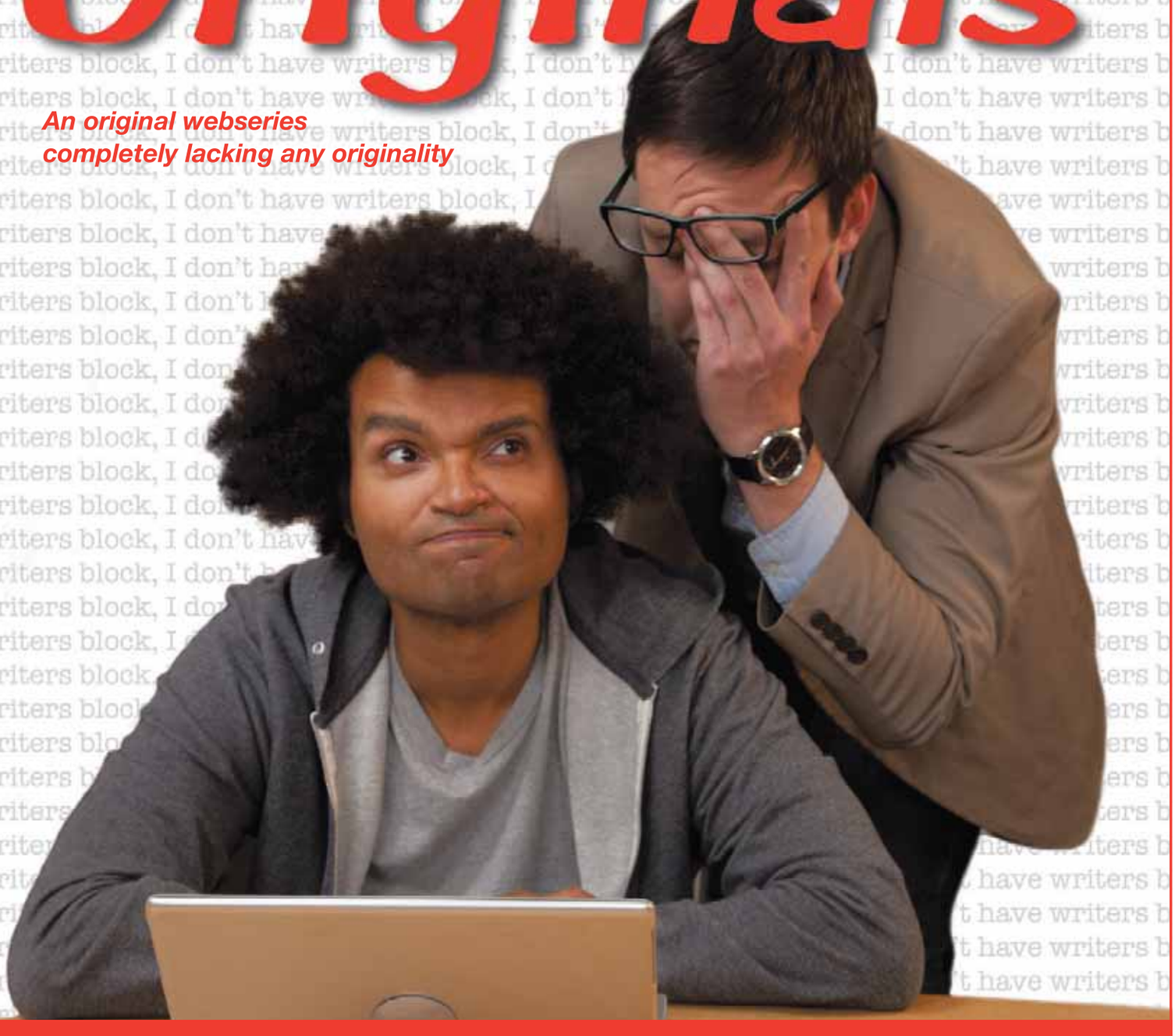

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New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

More than just heroes

Gallery's debut show, Heroes: Real, Fictional and Close to Home, is rooted in real genesis

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

Stepping inside MJG Gallery in Cabbagetown, one quickly finds themself surrounded by caped crusaders and masked avengers.

And Gumby.

It's not your typical artistic fare, nor is the through line between subjects necessarily obvious. But for gallery owner Mark Gleberzon, it's all part of one big picture.

"Everyone always talks about having a hero in their lives," he says.

"For the past couple of years I've been doing pictures of superheroes simply for the fact that I'm a huge fan of pop culture. Even though Batman and Superman are drawn on paper or you see them in a movie, they still have elements that are real for people after 70 years of having been around."

Yet the gallery's debut show, Heroes: Real, Fictional and Close to Home, had a much more real genesis. Seven years ago Gleberzon's then 16-year-old nephew was diagnosed with brain cancer.

"He dealt with it like a trooper from diagnosis to the last chemo and radiation treatments. He hardly ever even asked, 'Why me?'" he says.

"That was a wakeup moment for me as to realizing what a hero really is."

The results are a stunning array of interpretations of the term "hero." Hercules turns up twice in the pieces while Star Wars was also a popular source of inspiration.

Other pieces took a much more interpretive bent, incorporating poppy fields and bicycles.

MJG opened in August, showcasing a number of the artists who would eventually contribute to Heroes.

"I said this is the theme for the show and you can be as literal or vague as you want."

Many ended up creating work especially for the show.

"I took that as a huge compliment," says Gleberzon.

"Either they had enough faith in me to carry their work or they liked the project."

If you would like to attend Heroes: Real, Fictional and Close to Home is running to Dec 30 at MJG Gallery, 555 Parliament St.

Cabbagetown

MJG is, quite surprisingly, the only art gallery currently open in Cabbagetown

Gallery owner Mark Gleberzonuote: "I think the area warrants having a gallery."

MARK GLEBERZON

▶ Why fight the crowds at Queen Street West galleries? Cabbagetown is where it's at.

Saving victims to biting them

Chris Meloni, who ended 12-year run on Law & Order, will join HBO's drama True Blood

HBO says Law and Order veteran Chris Meloni will be sinking his teeth into a role on vampire drama True Blood.

The network confirmed yesterday that Meloni will be joining the popular series as an ancient, powerful vampire who controls the fate of the show's major characters.

The series' fifth season is expected to air next summer. Its stars include Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer.

Meloni recently ended a 12-year run on NBC's Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, where he played Detective Elliot Stabler.

Before that, the 50-year-old actor was a regular as a bisexual inmate on HBO's gritty prison drama, Oz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chris Meloni

2 scene

Oscar

The Academy Award Orson Welles won for writing the classic film Citizen Kane will be sold to the highest bidder. Auctioneer Nate D. Sanders plans to sell the Oscar statuette on Dec. 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Downey meets his match as 'Holmes' sequel resurrects grandad of super-villains Moriarty

Original survivor champ 'hatches' new scheme

Fresh out of prison, Richard Hatch eyes TV series about his relationship with his sperm donation children ◐ Maintains innocence in IRS debacle

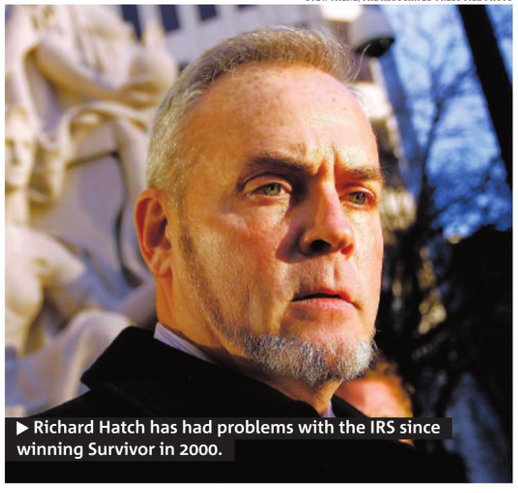
Reality star Richard Hatch, who was freed this week from prison on a tax evasion sentence tied to his $1 million Survivor winnings, said Tuesday that he is hoping for a new reality show about his relationship with the children conceived from his sperm donations.

Hatch, 50, was released Monday from prison for violating the terms of his supervised release in the long-running case. Hatch maintains his innocence and says he does not owe money to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Here I am, subjected to something that can only be described as institutionalized bullying," said Hatch, who spent nine months in prisons in five states.

Hatch won the inaugural season of the show in 2000. He was convicted in 2006 of two counts of attempted tax evasion and one count of signing a false tax return.

STEW MILNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO



▶ Richard Hatch has had problems with the IRS since winning Survivor in 2000.

He was released from prison in 2009 but ordered to return after a federal judge ruled he failed to file amended income tax returns for 2000 and 2001.

Shortly before returning to prison in March, Hatch, who lives in Rhode Island, said he met a 22-year-old biological son who is living in New Jersey. Hatch said he met the man, whom he identified only as Devin, through the Sibling Donor Registry, which helps connect donors and children. They took a DNA test to confirm their genetic ties, he said.

Hatch said another biological child, whom he identified as a 22-year-old Maine woman named Emily, visited him in prison.

"It was additionally challenging to be wrongfully imprisoned knowing that these children were coming forward," Hatch said. "I told the court that beforehand. I explained this is a fascinating time in my life when I was at a place where I wanted to get to know these people who are my children who have come forward and want to get to know me."

He also views the show as a way to help the public understand the relationships between offspring and donors.

"The offspring want connections with their biological donors because of all kinds of varying reasons from health to emotional to whatever they are," said Hatch.

Hatch said a production company was involved in plans for a TV series about his encounters with his children but that no plans have been finalized. He declined to name the production company.

Hatch also has an adopted son, who attends the University of Rhode Island.

Hatch's discovery is one of the most interesting encountered by Wendy Kramer, executive director and co-founder of the Sibling Donor Registry. Kramer said she's known Hatch for years and that they have discussed working on a television project together.

Hatch said he has no regrets about participating in Survivor and would like to compete in The Amazing Race, which also airs on CBS.

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Terms of release

- Hatch remains on supervised release for the next two years and two months. Under the terms of his release, Hatch must pay 25 per cent of his gross income to the IRS to pay off his taxes for 2000 and 2001, court records show. He also cannot leave the country without court permission.

Junos call on top talent

Deadmau5, Feist, City and Colour slated to perform at awards show

Grammy-nominated producer Deadmau5 is among the first batch of performers announced for next year's Juno Awards.

Feist and City and Colour have also been announced as performers for the next show, which will be held at Ottawa's Scotiabank Place on April 1.

Toronto roots-rock band Blue Rodeo will also perform on the same night that the group is ushered into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

The announcement comes just before the first batch of tickets for the annual awards gala go on sale on Friday.

The show will also introduce a new category for the metal/hard rock music album of the year, bringing the total award tally to 41.

And it will mark the first time the Junos have been held in the nation's capital since 2003.

"This first group of performers are among the most exciting and coveted artists in the world, and it only makes sense that they be a part of Canada's greatest night in music," said Melanie Berry, president of the Juno Awards and the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Grammy-nominated producer Deadmau5 will perform at the 2012 Junos.

Hawaii Five-O crew in hot water

Pearl Harbor survivors say they felt disrespected by crew at veterans cemetery during anniversary ceremony

A group of Pearl Harbor survivors say they were disrespected by the crew of the CBS crime drama Hawaii Five-O during a visit to Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

The Denver-based Greatest Generations Foundation took 23 veterans to the Punchbowl cemetery last week to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

The veterans found it offensive that the crew members didn't stop production while the national anthem and taps were played and that they were walking on graves, said Steffan Tubbs, a foundation board member and co-host of KOA-AM's morning news show in Denver.

Tubbs visited the cemetery with the group, which conducted a small ceremony there.

The crew was filming a scene involving a lead character visiting his father's grave, "which in reality was surrounded by the real graves of (Second World War) heroes," Tubbs said Tuesday.

"It didn't seem right."

Cemetery director Gene Castagnetti said the filming was approved beforehand. He added walking on graves is unavoidable and not considered disrespectful if done carefully.

It came as a surprise that the veterans would be laying roses during their ceremony, taking them to locations in the cemetery where the crew was filming, Castagnetti said.

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HANDOUT

▶ Hawaii Five-O's filming at Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery has upset some Pearl Harbor survivors.

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Let the road to the Oscars begin

The Help leads Screen Actors honours with 4 noms

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presenter Judy Greer, right, smiles alongside fellow presenter Regina King as her The Descendants castmate George Clooney is nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award yesterday.

The Deep South drama The Help cleaned up with four nominations yesterday for the Screen Actors Guild Awards, among them honours for Viola Davis, Jessica Chastain and Octavia Spencer.

The adaptation of the bestselling novel also was nominated for best ensemble cast, along with the silent film The Artist, the wedding comedy Bridesmaids, the family drama The Descendants and the romantic fantasy Midnight in Paris.

The nominations are among the first major honours on the long road to the Feb. 26 Academy Awards. The SAG list of contenders and Golden Globe nominees that will be announced today help sort out favourites from also-rans for Oscar voters, whose nominations come out Jan. 24.

Davis is up for best actress and Spencer for supporting actress as black maids who agree to share stories of their tough lives with an aspiring white writer at the start of the civil-rights movement in 1960s Mississippi. Chastain also was nominated for supporting actress as Spencer's lonely, needy new boss.

The Artist ran second with three nominations, including a best-actor honour for Jean Dujardin as a silent star falling from grace amid the advent of talking pictures and supporting actress for Berenice Bejo, who plays a rising sound-era movie star.

Along with Davis, best-actress contenders are Glenn Close as a woman disguising herself as a male butler in 19th-century Ireland in Albert Nobbs; Meryl Streep as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in The Iron Lady; Tilda Swinton as a grief-stricken woman coping with her son's horrible deeds in We Need to Talk About Kevin; and Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe in My Week With Marilyn.

Joining Dujardin in the best-actor category are Demian Bichir as a hard-working illegal immigrant father in A Better Life; George Clooney as a neglectful dad tending his two daughters in The Descendants; Leonardo DiCaprio as FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover in J. Edgar; and Brad Pitt as Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane in Moneyball.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAG denials

- Overlooked for best actor was Gary Oldman, whose performance in the espionage saga Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy has been billed by critics as one of the best in his career.
- Also snubbed was Michael Fassbender for his daring role in the sex-addict drama Shame and Ryan Gosling for two acclaimed performances in the action tale Drive and the political drama The Ides of March.

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A very Jersey Christmas

Creators of popular Broadway musical Jersey Boys shake things up with a CD of holiday songs

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Seasons Greetings: A Jersey Boys Christmas features a synth-pop version of Angels From the Realms of Glory, among other holiday classics. The New York cast members are pictured here.

Background

- The musical Jersey Boys, which opened in 2005 at the August Wilson Theatre, tells the story of the band — Bob Gaudio, Frankie Valli, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi — and features 20 Four Seasons songs, including Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You and Oh, What a Night.
- It won the Tony for best musical, a Grammy Award for best cast album and has been seen by over 13 million people across the world and grossed over $1 billion worldwide. Plans are in the works for a movie to be made of the musical.

For the Broadway fan on your Christmas list, why not consider a little touch of Jersey?

Cast members from various Jersey Boys productions across the country have recorded a selection of Christmas classics in the style of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

The eclectic CD ranges from the spiritual Rise Up, Shepherd, to a doo-wop version of White Christmas, to a synth-pop version of Angels From the Realms of Glory to a medley of Santa songs with those signature Jersey Boys harmonies.

"It's probably not going to be what some fans expect," said Bob Gaudio, a founding member of The Four Seasons and the group's principal songwriter. "It's not all Jingle Bell Rock. But that's why it's fun."

The album — Seasons Greetings: A Jersey Boys Christmas from Rhino Entertainment — is one of a crop of new CDs out this season with a Broadway connection, including cast albums from Elf, Follies, Anything Goes and Godspell.

Recording the Jersey Boys holiday album was a logistical puzzle since it combines performances from six stars in the various show casts — Joseph Leo Bwarie from the U.S. national tour, Travis Cloer and Rick Faugno from the Las Vegas cast, Bobby Fox from the Australia show, Ryan Molloy from the London cast and Jarrod Spector, currently on Broadway.

John Lloyd Young, who won the 2006 Tony Award in the original Broadway production, also sings a few songs. Most of the performers had to record their portion in a single day after flying to a recording studio in Nashville, Tenn.

The CD is a clever way to further the reach of a franchise whose staying power continues to wow even its creators more than six years after debuting on Broadway.

A second U.S. national tour has begun and a new production starts up in New Zealand in April. A holiday CD is a logical extension.

"It's one of those privileges that comes to shows that have these kinds of rare runs," said Michael David, a Jersey Boys producer.

"You can think beyond how are we going next week and begin to think of a future that's longer than the traditional tenure of Broadway shows."

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Dirt off your shoulder

T-Pain brushes off his critics with laughs and lots of hits

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ T-Pain's latest album, rEVOLVEr, was released last week.

T-Pain knows that whatever he does — including his latest album, rEVOLVEr, which he calls the best record he's ever done — there will be people who will just dismiss him as that Auto-Tune guy.

It doesn't bother him though. While it may be a blow to his ego, he soothes the slams with his ever-hearty laugh — and a glance at his checkbook.

"Say what you wanna say — I'm still rich," he said, chuckling while sitting in his tour bus. "It's not going to change anything."

Indeed, nothing seems to have derailed the 27-year-old singer and producer and his hit-making magic since he made his debut with songs like I'm Sprung and I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper) in 2005. Those songs started a platinum-chain reaction of hits, including Buy U a Drank, Can't Believe It and Good Life with Kanye West, which earned him one of his two Grammy Awards.

"Say what you wanna say — I'm still rich."
T-PAIN

His reliance on Auto-Tune, the vocal aide that gives a computerized effect to his voice, became his signature sound. Its use grew so ubiquitous with other acts that it sparked a backlash.

Jay-Z famously declared D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune), but it still thrives. In fact, T-Pain's app that lets people add that effect to their voice is a popular one.

Speaking last month on the night of his final concert as the opening act for Chris Brown's F.A.M.E. tour, T-Pain was weary as he waited for his moment onstage. But through laughs, he had enough energy to talk about his latest album, his critics and the truth in his music.

Have you ever considered not using Auto-Tune because of all the criticism?

No. It made me do it more, just to annoy the hell out of people (laughs). ... It made me realize that when I don't use it, people don't pay attention to them songs. I've got a song on every album, two songs as a matter of fact on every album without Auto-Tune, and that's the song that nobody talks about. It's weird. And like my biggest hit, the biggest hit song I had, the longest-running song was Flo Rida's Low, and that didn't have Auto-Tune on it at all, and people had no idea. They just feel like anytime they hear me, it's going to be Auto-Tune. Anytime people read my tweets, they hear it in Auto-Tune. It's weird. I don't know (laughing).

How have you grown performing in the spotlight, dealing with criticism?

Most of the blogs and stuff, it's just their opinion. It's just that one person. They didn't ask anybody else how they felt. ... It's just their opinion, and I can ask anybody that. It doesn't have to be a journalist. I can just go on Twitter and say, "Hey guys, how did I do tonight?" (Laughs.) That's what I look to, I look to the people who actually came there for a concert, and not somebody who came there looking for some bad stuff to say, because that's what's interesting, that's what makes your blog interesting.

Does this record represent a different T-Pain?

It's a really different T-Pain. It's a more confident T-Pain on the album, but I'm like scared. I don't know what to do. I don't know how this is gonna work out. This album is really good, though. It's so good that I went back just to listen to all of my other albums, and I was like, I don't know why I thought people would like that. It's bad. It's like, such a difference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'We both actually cried while writing the song'

Miranda Lambert is paying tribute to husband Blake Shelton's late brother with her new single, Over You.

Richie Shelton died in a car accident in 1990. The newlyweds wrote the song together about a year ago, and Lambert recorded it for her latest album Four the Record. It is the second single released from the album. The song idea started on a tour bus as they were flipping through TV channels. Shelton's Backstory happened to be re-airing on Great American Country (GAC), and it was at the part where his dad was talking about his brother's fatal crash. His father said: "You don't ever get over something like that. You just get used to it."

The couple turned the TV off and started talking.

"Miranda never had a chance to meet my brother," Shelton said recently. "I was just a teenager when that happened. So I was telling her about him, what he was like, and we just ended up like we do sometimes, writing a song."

Richie was only 24 when he died. Shelton was 14 at the time.

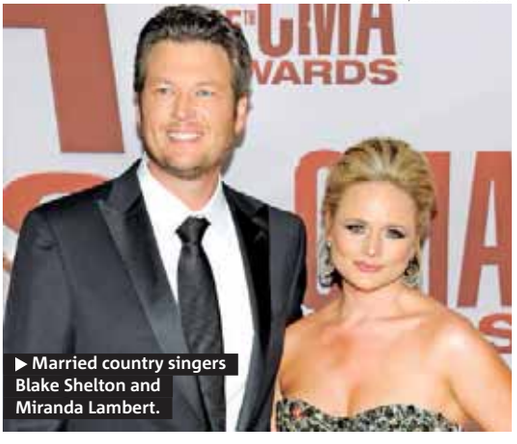
This was the first time Shelton, now 35, really opened up to Lambert about the tragedy.

"We both actually cried while writing the song," said Lambert, 28.

"That's the only time I've ever gotten that emotional writing a song, and him, too. So, I think the initial emotion came out right that day, and I think you hear it in the lyrics."

Some of the lines are pulled directly from Shelton's experience. Lambert sings, "Your favourite records make me feel better, cause you sing along with every song. I know you didn't mean to give them to me."

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Married country singers Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert.

"That's one of the things I got when my brother was killed. The family gave me all his albums and things like that," Shelton said.

"I just listened to them over and over again to feel like he was there."

Shelton said Richie loved all kinds of music, from Hank Williams Jr. to MC Hammer.

He still has his brother's No Fences album by Garth Brooks and says Richie's favourite song at the time was Friends In Low Places.

The songwriting process helped Lambert and Shelton grow as a couple. Lambert calls it the most real song she's ever had.

"It was really a great moment between us. It was like we moved to a deeper level, not just in our relationship, but also, we respect each other as artists, and being able to write something that personal with each other was really cool," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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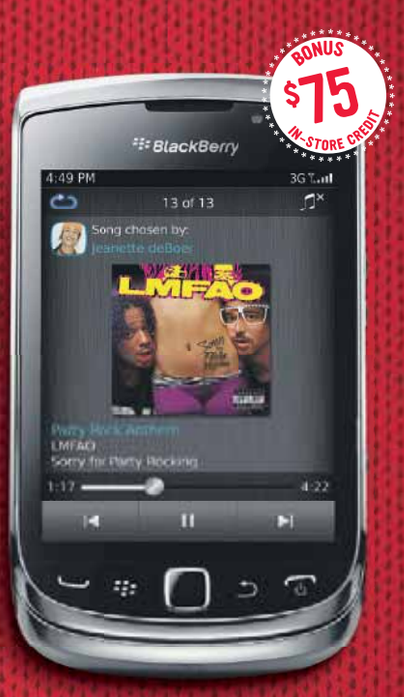

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LiLo bails on Ellen, ‘delayed in Hawaii’

Star cancels spot on talk show Producers score Paris Jackson instead

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Remember that “exclusive” interview Lindsay Lohan was going to do on Ellen — the only media appearance she agreed to do to promote her new Playboy magazine spread? Well, she missed it. Of course she did!

Her rep says the reason she didn’t make the show was because she “was delayed in Hawaii due to a travel-related issue. Lindsay offered to tape Ellen tomorrow, but the show was unable to shift things around, and tomorrow is their last day of taping for the season.” The show’s producers are less than pleased, according to Gossip Cop. “Not a call or an apology from Lindsay,” a source close to the show says.

However, the producers scored a coup de grace and got Paris Jackson (Michael Jackson’s oldest child) to fill in for Lohan in her first solo television appearance, which will air on Thursday. The 13-year-old talked about her new film role in the fantasy film Lundon’s Bridge and the Three Keys.

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lindsay Lohan

Celebrity tweets

@OfficialMelB

ok so i think i'm d efoo going with the video xmas card,ok family lets get this done in the next week or so,will keep you guys posted!

@lindsaylohan

Is this for real??? My friend has a trained cheetah in his car ... That’s nuts!!!!!!!!

@mrskutcher

changing my twitter name isn't a top priority right now. sorry it bothers so many of u. should I not tweet until I do?does it really matter?

@Joan_Rivers

We Jews decorate differently for Christmas. Our manger scenes are typically set in a Chinese restaurant.

Sheen’s ex heads back to rehab

After more recent run-ins with the law, Charlie Sheen’s ex-wife Brooke Mueller has decided to once again check herself into rehab, according to TMZ.

“Brooke has decided to remove herself from the media spotlight and has entered a long-term in-patient treatment centre where she can focus on her recovery without distraction,” her rep says.

“Brooke will retain custody of the children, who will remain in their home.”

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Angie still loves her some Brad

While six kids may seem like plenty, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt aren't necessarily done building their family.

"Nothing planned at the moment, but we just don't know," Jolie tells Marie Clare magazine. "I could end up pregnant."

In the meantime, she's got plenty of nice things to say about the man in her life. "[Brad] has expanded my life in ways I never imagined. We built a family. He is not just the love my life, he is my family. I hold that very dear," Jolie says. METRO

Lorre says Sheen's binges heartbreaking

Looking back on the blow-up between Charlie Sheen and Two and a Half Men, the show's creator, Chuck Lorre, has changed his views on his former colleague and friend.

"Every time he got himself into trouble, we believed that there was healing that was going to come. I certainly believed that sobriety is something that he wants in his life, and I was wrong," Lorre tells TV Guide magazine.

"You couldn't do that much cocaine and work. It was falling apart. It was heartbreaking to be around here then. I didn't want to be writing a sitcom while my friend died. Or worse, hurt someone else.

"We couldn't be complacent. There was a tragedy unfolding right in front of us." METRO

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MWN

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Crown's jewel shines

A daughter of design royalty and goddaughter of true royalty sparkles with many talents

ALL PHOTOS PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

India Hicks hasn't drifted far from the flashbulbs since she was thrust into the global spotlight three decades ago as a teen bridesmaid in Charles and Diana's royal wedding.

The goddaughter of the Prince of Wales earned a degree in photography before moving in front of the lens as a sought-after model, featured by the likes of Ralph Lauren, Banana Republic and Bill Blass.

The London-born Hicks makes her home in the Bahamas with partner David Flint Wood and their four children, but continues to expand her brand.

She has launched an e-commerce arm of her island lifestyle boutique The Sugar Mill, has teamed with Crabtree and Evelyn on two collections of bath and beauty products and penned a book on inspirational interiors and another on fitness and natural beauty.

Her foray into designing fine jewelry seems a fitting addition to Hicks' style-centred resumé and reflective of her rich pedigree.

"I recognize in myself a lot of my strengths have come from him and indeed the way I decorate. Whether it's interiors, whether it's a collection of fragrances or whether it's fine jewelry."

INDIA HICKS ON HER FATHER, RENOWNED DECORATOR AND DESIGNER DAVID HICKS

Indeed, family played a figurative role in the decision to put her stamp on a signature jewelry collection — perhaps most notably her father, the late David Hicks.

The renowned interior decorator and designer was known for his strong use of colour and geometric designs in carpets and textiles, and his signature esthetic is where Hicks draws inspiration for her creations.

"We may have had a tricky relationship because he was quite a tricky chap, (but) a brilliant designer and a fascinating person," Hicks said in an interview last week in Holt Renfrew's offices.

"As a father, he was a perfectionist and he had a very strong point of view on how things were going to be done. So there were definitely times as a child where it was intimidating and life could have possibly been a little more relaxed on occasion.

"But nevertheless, I recognize in myself a lot of my strengths have come from him and, indeed, the way I decorate. Whether it's interiors, whether it's a collection of fragrances or whether it's fine jewelry, there's a lot of influence from my father."

Her mother is Lady Pamela Hicks, daughter to the Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Hicks took part in an in-store meet-and-greet with customers at Holt Renfrew's downtown flagship store last week where her jewelry collection will be carried exclusively in Canada.

The 44-year-old said there's much more she'd like to tackle in the style domain, but she wants to ensure she maintains her responsibilities balancing motherhood with work.

She also seeks to be prudent in lending her name and energy to a project she sees as having longevity.

"You want a collection that, firstly, you know is going to stand the test of time, you know is actually a good product, you know will have an audience that will be willing to buy it and invest in it and follow you," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thank you India

Hicks aces accessories:

- The Hicks on Hicks collection of sterling silver and diamond pieces features her father's famous hexagonal pattern with a modern, architectural influence seen in cuffs, earrings, necklaces and statement rings.
- Her sea-inspired Island Life collection includes starfish wrap cuffs and rings, fishtail earrings and shimmering shell-shaped pendants.

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
**When my kids were small I gave them cozy new flannel pj's every xmas eve so they'd be wearing them xmas morning.
What will YOU be wearing?**

- **@toniaantonietta:** Wow, I gave both my girls the same thing. Now, in their twenties what do I give them?
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** My girls are in their 20s too. Think I'm going to revive the tradition!!
- **@patricktustin:** I want to find a flannel one-piece that will fit my 6 foot frame hahaha
- **@Jeanne_Beker** Oh yeah...with a "trap door" in the back, right? Good luck!!

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Decking the halls (and tree) with @joeyoneil + my cool son-in-law Keith! Eggnog anyone??

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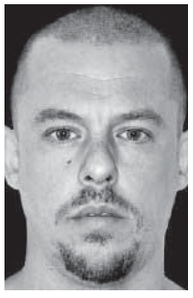

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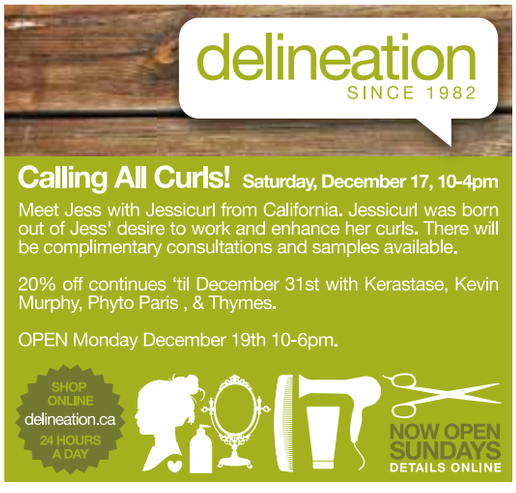

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1

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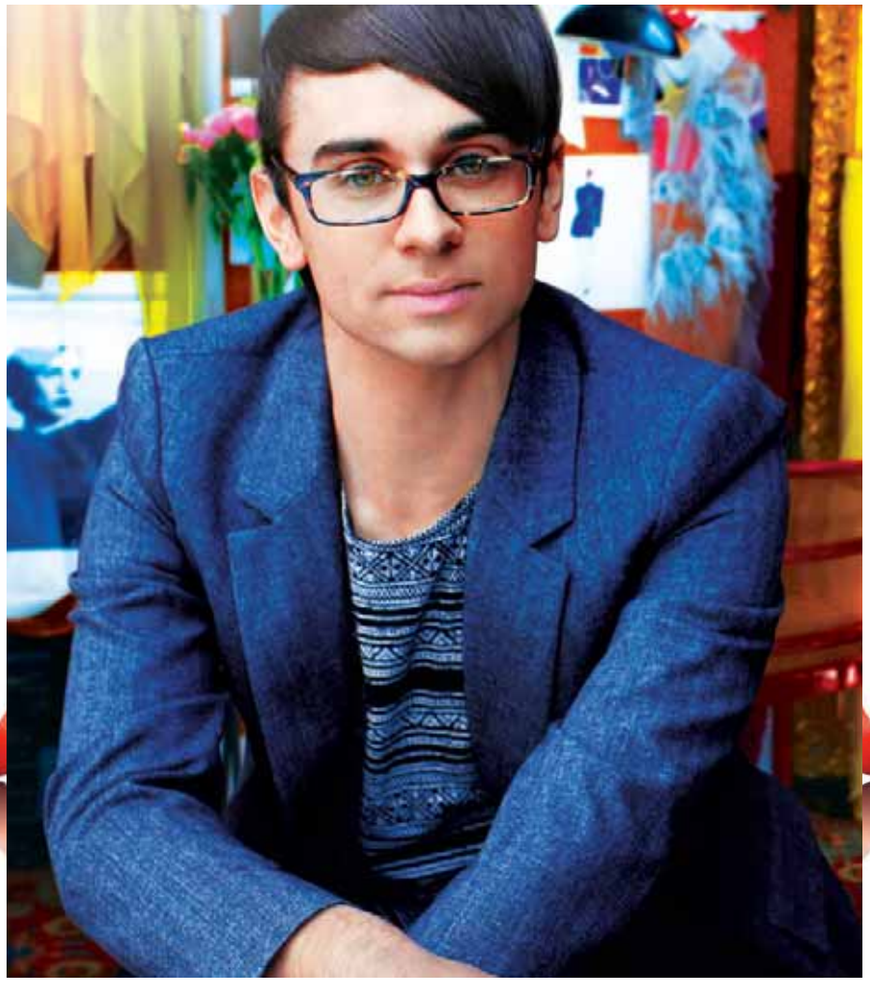

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THE KIT

By Chantel Simmons

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Give your roots a "should've washed my hair but didn't have time" boost with Label.m Dry Shampoo, $22, labelm.co.uk.

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There's no excuse not to have silky, shiny hair this winter.

Here is our top pick to get shiny hair in the shower — or out. Try Orofluido Shine Spray, $22, orofluido.com

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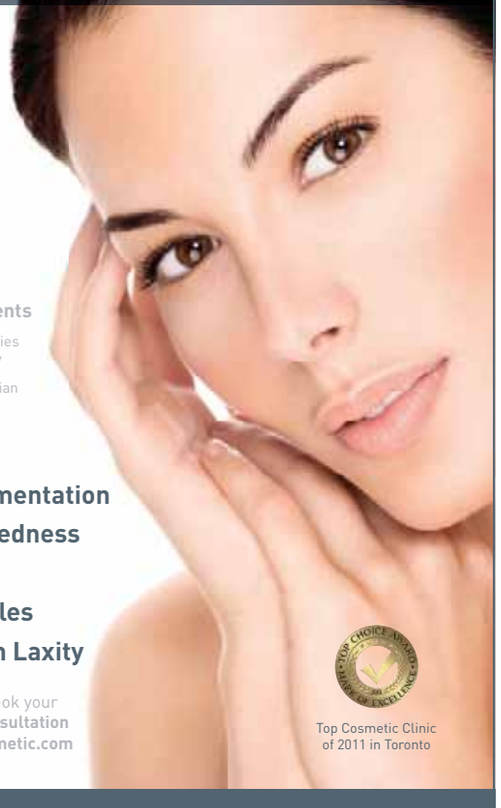

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Hot new condos on The Hill

The project overview

The Hill is a new development in Toronto's prestigious Forest Hill neighbourhood.

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Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** The Hill Condominiums
- **BUILDER:** BSäR Group of Companies
- **LOCATION:** Upper Forest Hill
- **WEBSITE:** TheHillCondos.ca
- **PHONE:** 416-546-6409
- **SIZES:** From 500 - 2200 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From $300,000 to $2.1 million

Location and transit

Located at Chiltern Hill and Eglinton Avenue West, it's a two-minute walk to the Eglinton West TTC subway station and nearby is the future LRT stop.

Commuters are close to the Allen Road and you can be in the downtown core within 20 minutes.

In the neighbourhood

Located in the desirable Forest Hill neighbourhood, residents will enjoy close proximity to a myriad of world-class shopping and dining along Eglinton Avenue West.

And Cedarvale Park is just a short walk away.

Building amenities

There's a party and billiards room and 7th floor terrace and barbecue area with stunning city and park views.

Residents will enjoy a private dining room and kitchen for entertaining.

Fully-equipped large fitness and yoga studio and a fully-furnished guest suite.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Rendering of The Hill Condominiums

Real news. Toronto

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

HONOURING TORONTO'S FINEST

ROOFTOP SURFING

PAUL GOLINI JR.
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

When you think of award presentations, most people think of the big builder that creates soaring towers or the clever advertising agency whose radio jingle sticks in your head.

The building and development process, however, doesn't begin or end with those two companies.

In fact, there are about a dozen (in some cases more) companies who worked tirelessly on every tower you see in our city. Unfortunately, the involvement of these companies is often overlooked when it comes to awards ceremonies.

This is exactly why BILD established the Associate Awards in 2004 as a way of recognizing some very important members of our Association, who play a vital yet unnoticed role in the building or renovation process. These Awards are presented in three distinct categories, including Service/Professional of the Year, Trade Contractor of the Year and Manufacturer/Supplier of the Year.

Nominees are judged based on quality, service, professionalism, leadership and innovation when working together with a builder or renovator and unlike many other awards, they are evaluated by their clients (those same builders or renovators) as opposed to a judging panel.

This year, IBI Group was awarded Best Service/Professional of the Year for the company's diverse range of services, spanning from land use planning to architecture to interior design.

The Best Trade Contractor of the Year Award went to Martino Contractors Ltd. who received the honour for the second year in a row.

Finally, the 2011 Best Manufacturer/Supplier Award was presented to Torlys Smart Floors for the company's dedication to the environment while offering great value and design when it comes to all things flooring.

On behalf of BILD, I would like to thank all our winners for their excellent work throughout the year.

PAUL GOLINI JR. IS CHAIR OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND CAN BE FOUND ON TWITTER (TWITTER.COM/BILDGTA), FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA), AND BILD'S OFFICIAL ONLINE BLOG (BILDBLOGS.CA).

The condo club

Condos specialists used to be real estate underdogs in Toronto ◐ The Toronto Condo Network now a force

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Once a month, the Toronto Condo Network holds their breakfast meeting at Marché in Brookfield Place.

This group consists of some of Toronto's savviest and astute realtors and has hosted distinguished guest speakers such as John Tory.

Started 20 years ago by Bette Ursini, at a time when condos were new to Toronto, the group now has 200 members.

"When it started, there were about 20 members in the whole city that were concentrating on condos. We had no computers or cellphones; I had to fax everyone to get together for a meeting," she says.

Condo specialists were rare in a marketplace dominated by houses.

"There was The Summit, there was Harbour Square, there was hardly anything at that time. But the ones that were specializing in condos, we needed to share information, we needed to get together."

Membership has its privileges

One of the key benefits of membership with the Network is their web presence.

Member realtors pay a modest annual fee to have their own website and listings on TorontoCondoNetwork.com.

Ursini founded the group with synergy in mind. "It's a great concept to bring realtors together," she says.

"Instead of double-ending your own deal, we work together; you sell mine, I'll sell yours, we still get the deal. So it's win-win. If we work together we're better off instead of competing."

No condos for families?

With so many years in Toronto's condo marketplace, Ursini can visualize the trends.

She's concerned about the rapid proliferation of smaller units being sold to investors.

"Now they're all going to come on the market, so how many renters do we have in the downtown core?"

She foresees a need for family-sized units that's just not being addressed.

"There's going to be a demand down the road for large units. I mean, this is OK for a single, but when a single becomes a couple they want space and there's not much of it going up right now, where you have an oversupply of tiny condos."

As far as Toronto's red-hot condo market slowing down, "We've been saying for three years, 'when's it going to tip?'" says Ursini.

"There is a demand because it's investor demand. It's the developers that are feeding the investors. Every building going up now is these tiny units.

If we end up like New York and our prices go that way, maybe we can accommodate the small space and no parking."

CONTRIBUTED

"Instead of double-ending your own deal, we work together; you sell mine, I'll sell yours, we still get the deal."
BETTE URSINI, FOUNDER OF THE TORONTO CONDO NETWORK

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▶ The monthly Toronto Condo Network meeting brings together some of the city's top realtors.

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Find room for Christmas

Think outside the decoration box Karl Lohnes invents new ways to add festive flair to the smallest of spaces

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@
METRONEWS.CA

Q: I live in a really small space and have no room to add a Christmas tree. How can I add a festive look to my small condo that won't take up the floor space?
Andrea Nichols, Vancouver

A: I suggest looking at ways to add fresh or artificial greenery to the walls or a door rather than taking up floor space.

First thing to do is inquire with your condo to see if fresh greens and trees are allowed (very often they are not), especially when electrical lights are being added. Not only are they considered a fire hazard, but the cleaning of dried needles and removal of the tree after the holidays is often a concern.

Artificial greens are a great alternative; they look realistic, are fire-retardant and last from year to year.

Look for outdoor artificial greenery. Larger-scaled wreaths and garlands can also help add a bigger impact.

Get creative

- **If you have a balcony,** decorate an artificial tree with tons of coloured lights and outdoor ornaments to view through the patio door while inside.

Christmas in a corner
Choose an artificial half or corner tree.

This will give you the look of a tree but without the bulk of a full one.

I suggest buying a four-six foot tree and standing it on a skirted decorator table to give it height and allow it to look super tall and majestic.

With only half or a quarter-sized tree to decorate, fill it with tons of ornaments that are all related by colour.

Some great colour combinations would be: brown and orange, lime green and gold or red and turquoise.

SEARS

▶ Noel Avenue Corner Tree; $90, Sears

POTTERY BARN

▶ Outdoor Pine Wreath with decorations; $99, Pottery Barn

Do up your door
Link three wreaths vertically on a door so they can be viewed from a common spot in your condo. Use over-door wreath hangers to hang the wreaths.

Arranging the smallest on top to largest on bottom will give you a traditional tree shape or stacking same-sized wreaths will add a contemporary flair.

Use battery operated mini lights to illuminate the wreaths to allow the door to swing open and closed.

For real fun, paint the door a shiny bright red colour or cover it in a big-scaled holiday wrapping paper.

'WINING' AND CRYING

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

▶ Don't let a red wine stain dampen your festive fun.

Dear Charles the Butler, With the holiday season in full swing, what do I do if I get a wine spill on my carpet or upholstered furniture? Do I or don't I add white wine, club soda, salt, dab, rub or wet vacuum to the stain?

Along with the multitude of things people say you should and should not do, I have no clue what to do any more and just panic to say the least. Can I tell my guests no red wine?

Wine spills in the middle of a reception often create a small scene. So let's take a deep breath and figure out how to deal with them.

1. Stay calm and don't draw too much attention to the spot, as this will make your guests feel uncomfortable.

2. Use a clean and dry cloth to absorb the wine but don't rub it in. Keep using the cloth or lots of paper towels to pat and absorb the liquid.

3. Flush the stain with fresh cool water. Again use a clean cloth to pat and absorb the stain. This should remove all of the wine.

4. Once all liquid has been absorbed, add lots of salt and let it sit overnight.

5. Vacuum the stain the following day.

Finally, as the host you can choose not to serve red wine. But in most cases you can easily get the stain out.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FAULTY CONSTRUCTION

LEGAL MATTERS

JEFFREY COWAN HOME @METRONEWS.CA

Q: I recently bought a three-bedroom townhome that is approximately 14-years-old.

I instantly ran into two issues as the sellers had made very minimal upgrades to the home.

As a result, the carpet was in extremely poor condition. Also, the stairs throughout the house were soiled terribly.

Upon removing the carpet on the stairs, the contractors pointed out that four of the 20-plus stairs were built out of scrap so they weren't any particular kind of wood (i.e. pine).

The management asked that I liaise with the builder directly.

The builder, who coincidently won a prize for the architecture, refused any responsibility and said that not only is the warranty period over for this establishment but it would be my responsibility to touch base with the City inspector who inspected this property 14 years ago.

They also mentioned how they couldn't take responsibility based on the fact that I may have altered the stairs myself.

It actually surprises me as the builder is a big organization and still had this response.

Could you advise whether I can do anything about this or must I go on my merry way like the builder has suggested?

A: The issue of the stairs is extremely problematic.

Your recourse to the builder is basically extinct unless you could link it back through the present vendor.

However, the seller to you may have had no knowledge of the subgrade stair construction and if they did, good luck proving it.

The City inspector would probably have no notes for a home of that age.

Even if you had a home inspector prior to your purchase, they may not have uncovered the defect in the stairs, which I take was under carpet.

You could pursue all the parties involved from 14 years ago until the present day but the reality is that you probably would spend more on that battle than it will cost you to fix the faulty stairs and move onward and upward.

JEFFREY COWAN IS THE PRINCIPAL OF COWAN LAW AND CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL AT JEFF@COWANLAW.CA.

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Have yourself an appy Christmas

Banish dull shrimp cocktail in favour of something zestier: Caribbean Shrimp Skewers

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe makes 24 skewers.

Are you a little bored with the same old shrimp cocktail? This year, try something different.

Start with the same easy, pre-cooked shrimp, but this time toss them with a zesty Jamaican-style seasoning blend and skewer them with cubes of tangy mango and cool, crunchy cucumber. Add a touch of zippy pepper and nobody will suffer from yet-another-shrimp-cocktail syndrome.

Ingredients:

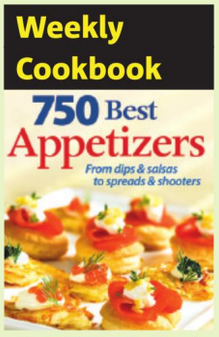
- 5 ml (1 tsp) garlic powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) allspice
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) nutmeg
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dry ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cayenne pepper
- 5 ml (1 tsp) black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 285 g (10 oz) peeled and deveined cooked medium shrimp
- 6 Peppadew peppers, quartered
- 2 mangoes, peeled, cubed
- 1/2 English cucumber, cut in 1/2 moon slices

Preparation:

1. In bowl, stir garlic powder, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, thyme, cayenne, black pepper and salt. Pat shrimp dry, then toss in spice mix.
2. On 10-cm (4-inch) skewers or picks, place a piece of pepper, then a piece of mango, a piece of cucumber and finally 3 spiced shrimp.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA

Weekly Cookbook



One of the best parts of the festive season is appetizers to serve as friends gather. In that spirit, Toronto food writer Judith Finlayson and chef Jordan Wagman co-authored 750 Best Appetizers: From Dips and Salsas to Spreads and Shooters.

The book has 16 chapters built around specific types of dishes, such as dips, or specific ingredients like cheese.

Among the starters are: tahini dip, shrimp bisque, duck confit quesadilla, and others.

WITH FILES FROM THE CP

It's time to face it — Italian and Swedish meatballs deserve a rest ◐ Try these cranberry-chipotle ones instead

Cranberry Chipotle Meatballs

Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground beef
- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground pork
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 chipotle pepper (in adobo sauce), minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) adobo sauce (from canned chipotles in adobo)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) red wine vinegar
- 2 eggs
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) panko breadcrumbs

Sauce:

- 500 mL (2 cups) whole berry cranberry sauce
- 375 mL (1 1/2 cups) chili sauce
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) adobo sauce (from canned chipotles in adobo)

Preparation:

1. Coat rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In skillet heat oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic and onion and sauté 5 mins. or until soft and translucent; set aside to cool.
3. In bowl, mix cooked onion mix, beef, pork, salt, black pepper, chipotle pepper, adobo sauce, vinegar, eggs and breadcrumbs. Form mix into 2.5-cm (1-inch) balls. Arrange on prepared baking sheet. Bake in 220 C (425 F) 10 mins. or until cooked through.
4. Sauce: In saucepan combine cranberry sauce, chili sauce and adobo sauce and bring to a simmer over medium heat.
5. When meatballs are done, transfer to a shallow bowl or rimmed platter. Pour sauce over meatballs and toss gently to coat and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe makes about 50 meatballs.

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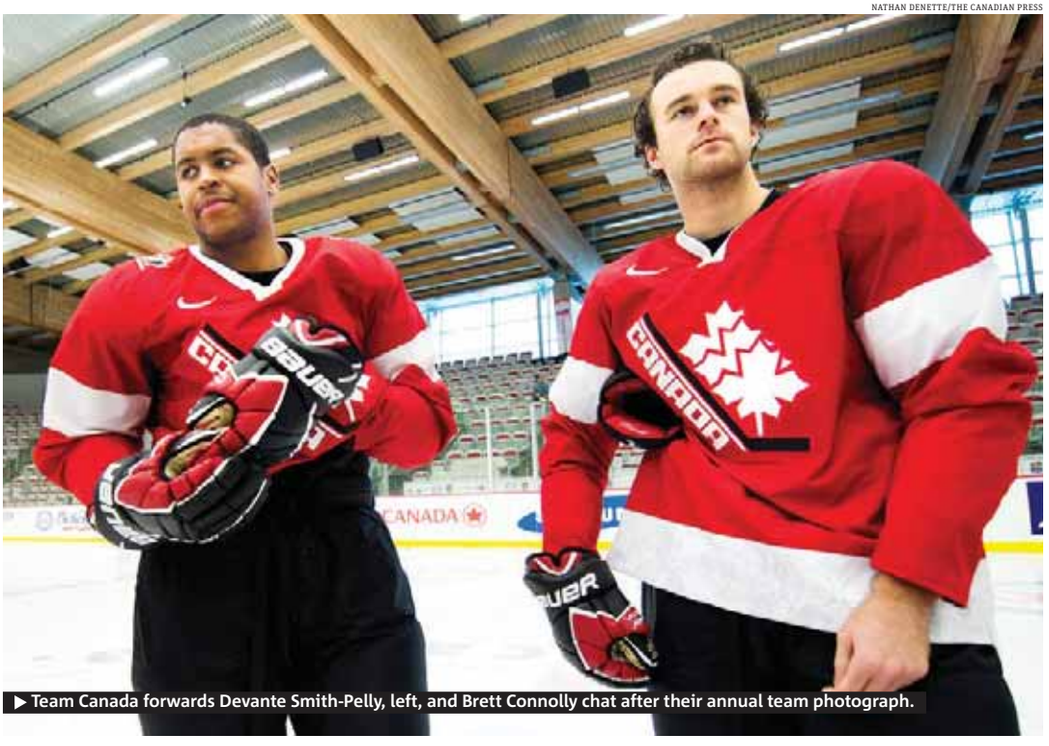
Heavyweight contenders

Elite defence, multi-tasking forwards named to Canadian junior men's hockey team

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Team Canada forwards Devante Smith-Pelly, left, and Brett Connolly chat after their annual team photograph.

The Canadian team charged with reclaiming gold at the world junior hockey championship will be able to count on a big, deep defence, multi-purpose forwards and an experienced goaltender.

"We have real good balance," coach Don Hay said yesterday of his 22-man squad. "When we tried to put the team together, we really looked at what we'd need if somebody went down with an injury. Could that player move up? Play on the power play and kill penalties and things like that?

"We have a couple top-end lines and a couple of hard-working third and fourth lines and we have players that can fill different roles and move into different positions."

The defence is big and skilled.

Led by Saginaw Spirit's Jamie Oleksiak (almost six foot seven and 244 pounds), the seven defencemen chosen average almost six foot three and 200 pounds. Five of them were taken in the first round of the NHL draft.

Up front, Canada profited when Devante Smith-Pelly of the Anaheim Ducks and Brett Connolly of the Tampa Bay Lightning were made available to the Canadian team.

Smith-Pelly, five foot 11 and 212 pounds, is projected to play the wing on Canada's top line and create space for his linemates.

"I think we'll be physical in a lot of different ways," said Hay, who coaches the WHL Vancouver Giants. "We have a lot of speed that will let us get to pucks quickly and then when we get the pucks we'll be physical on the puck. You have Smith-Pelly who will create a lot of physical play and I think guys will really follow him."

"I learned a lot from last year. ... It's something I used to motivate myself in the summer to get better, but right now it's a clean slate"
GOALIE MARK VISENTIN

The 2012 world junior hockey championship opens Dec. 26 in Calgary and Edmonton. Canada will play its Pool B games in Edmonton. Pool A and medal-round games are in Calgary.

Mark Visentin, one of four Niagara IceDogs named to the Canadian team, will start in goal.

"Coming in, he's the No. 1 guy," Hay said. "I think you're always proving yourself and he knows that."

Scott Wedgewood of the Plymouth Whalers is the other goalie.

Visentin, Connolly, Quinton Howden of the Moose Jaw Warriors and Jaden Schwartz of Colorado College all played in the 2011 tournament.

Canada had the gold medal in its grasp in Buffalo with a 3-0 lead heading into the third period. Russia scored five unanswered goals on Visentin in the third to take it away from them.

Freddie and Dougie Hamilton will be the first brothers to play for the Canadian team since Randy and Mike Moller 30 years ago. Freddie is 19 and Dougie is 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Sports in brief

The Hornets have agreed in principle to deal Chris Paul to the Los Angeles Clippers for guard Eric Gordon, forward Al-Farouq Aminu, centre Chris Kaman and a first-round draft choice, people familiar with negotiations said.

ESPN, citing anonymous sources, first reported the trade, which also involves New Orleans sending two future second-round draft picks to the Clippers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Argos' answer to Calvillo?

Team looks to new QB Ray to help spark offence

Scott Milanovich isn't going to mess with success.

The Toronto Argonauts rookie head coach plans to go with many of the same offensive schemes used during his four seasons as the Montreal Alouettes' offensive co-ordinator.

In Montreal, Anthony Calvillo pulled the strings. In Toronto, Milanovich will look to newly acquired quarterback Ricky Ray.

"Ricky has a lot of the same talents that Anthony Calvillo has," Milanovich said yesterday as the Argos officially introduced Ray at a news conference atop the CN Tower.

"The possibility of (Argos offence) looking somewhat similar to what you saw in Montreal I think is high now, but there are things Ricky does differently than Anthony and there are different types of players here so it's not going to be exactly the same.

"I just didn't fit into (Edmonton's) plans and it's exciting to come to a place where I fit into the plans they have."
RICKY RAY

"It's never going to be about one player but certainly the quarterback is going to have a lot to say about the success or failure you have in a season and we know we have a good one."

Toronto is counting on Ray to kick-start a league-worst offence. Under Cleo Lemon — who was released at mid-season — and Steven Jyles — dispatched to Edmonton in the Ray trade — Toronto went 6-12 and finished last in the East Division.

Jyles and Lemon finished a combined 269-of-436 passing (61.7 per cent) for 3,066 yards with 14 touchdowns against 15 interceptions. Ray completed 343-of-526 passes (65.2 per cent) for 4,594 yards and 24 touchdowns against 11 interceptions for the 11-7 Eskimos.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	29	19	7	2	1	106	82	41	8-4-1-1	11-3-1-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Boston	30	20	9	0	1	102	61	41	11-6-0-1	9-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Florida	31	16	9	2	4	84	80	38	6-2-1-4	10-7-1-0	4-3-2-1	L3
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	2	2	95	79	38	8-3-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	16	11	2	1	93	95	35	7-4-2-1	9-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
New Jersey	30	16	13	0	1	79	86	33	6-5-0-1	10-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Buffalo	30	15	12	2	1	81	82	33	7-9-2-1	8-3-0-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Montreal	31	13	11	2	5	79	80	33	5-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	4-2-1-3	W2
Winnipeg	30	14	12	3	1	84	93	32	10-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Ottawa	32	14	14	2	2	96	112	32	7-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Washington	29	15	13	0	1	89	94	31	10-5-0-1	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	28	9	13	4	2	65	93	24	6-7-3-0	3-6-1-2	4-3-2-1	L3
Carolina	32	9	18	3	2	80	110	23	5-9-0-2	4-9-3-0	1-7-1-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	32	20	8	2	2	83	70	44	10-4-1-1	10-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	L2
d-Chicago	31	19	8	1	3	103	95	42	9-2-0-3	10-6-1-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Dallas	29	17	11	0	1	74	78	35	9-4-0-1	8-7-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Detroit	29	19	9	1	0	93	63	39	12-2-1-0	7-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W3
Vancouver	30	18	10	0	2	98	73	38	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-1	8-1-0-1	L1
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Nashville	30	15	11	3	1	79	80	34	6-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	5-5-0-0	W3
San Jose	28	15	10	2	1	78	68	33	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	3-5-1-1	L3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	30	14	14	1	1	74	82	30	8-5-1-1	6-9-0-0	6-3-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	30	13	13	2	2	65	70	30	8-9-0-1	5-4-2-1	3-6-1-0	L5
Colorado	31	14	16	1	0	82	94	29	8-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Columbus	30	9	17	1	3	73	100	22	6-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Boston 5 Ottawa 2
Chicago 4 Minnesota 3 (SO)
Phoenix at Anaheim
Tuesday's results
Toronto 2 Carolina 1 (OT)
Ottawa 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Winnipeg 2 Minnesota 1
Columbus 2 Vancouver 1 (SO)
Nashville 2 Calgary 1
Colorado 4 San Jose 3 (SO)
Dallas 1 N.Y. Rangers 0
Montreal 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
Boston 3 Los Angeles 0
Detroit 4 Pittsburgh 1
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Philadelphia 5 Washington 1
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BRUINS 5, SENATORS 2

First Period
1. Boston, Peverley 6 (Ference, Corvo) 12:10
Penalties — Lucic Bos, Carkner Ott (fighting) 11:46.
Second Period
2. Ottawa, Alfredsson 8 (Spezza) 4:23
3. Boston, Kelly 12 (Boychuk, Peverley) 13:47
Penalties — Seidenberg Bos (cross-checking) 5:31, McQuaid Bos (kneeing major, game misconduct) 17:45, Konopka Ott (goaltender interference) 19:40.
Third Period
4. Boston, Bergeron 6, 4:54
5. Boston, Paille 4 (Thornton, Ference) 5:50
6. Ottawa, Spezza 10 (Phillips, Alfredsson) 15:55
7. Boston, Paille 5, 18:56
Penalties — Horton Bos (high-sticking) 12:43, Marchand Bos (delay of game) 16:23.
Shots on goal

Boston	6	13	10	—29
Ottawa	13	14	22	—49

Goal — Boston: Thomas (W,14-5-0); Ottawa: Anderson (L,12-11-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) Boston: 0-1; Ottawa: 0-4.
Referees — Marc Joannette, Tom Kowal.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Lonnie Cameron.
Attendance — 18,088 (19,153) at Ottawa.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
Lupul, Tor	13	21	34
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Versteeg, Fla	15	18	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Pominville, Buf	10	22	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Backstrom, Wash	11	20	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Weiss, Fla	11	20	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Datsyuk, Det	9	21	30
Spezza, Ott	9	21	30
Neal, Pgh	17	12	29
Franzen, Det	14	15	29
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Malkin, Pgh	11	18	29
Selanne, Ana	9	20	29
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28
Hartnell, Pha	15	12	27
M.Koivu, Minn	7	20	27
Seguin, Bos	13	13	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
Karlsson, Ott	2	24	26
Michalek, Ott	19	6	25
Gaborik, NYR	15	10	25
Vrbata, Phx	14	11	25
B.Richards, NYR	11	14	25
Elias, NJ	10	15	25
Filpula, Det	10	15	25
Jagr, Pha	10	15	25
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	15	25
Plekanec, Mtl	6	19	25
E.Kane, Wpg	15	9	24
Perry, Ana	12	12	24
Skinner, Car	12	12	24
Tavares, NYI	10	14	24
Briere, Pha	9	15	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24
J.Thornton, SJ	5	19	24
Parenteau, NYI	4	20	24
B.Campbell, Fla	2	22	24
Moulson, NYI	15	8	23
Lucic, Bos	10	13	23
Parise, NJ	10	13	23
C.Smith, Nash	8	15	23
Henrique, NJ	7	16	23
Prospal, Clb	7	16	23
Pavelski, SJ	12	10	22
Marchand, Bos	11	11	22
Pacioretty, Mtl	11	11	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Dupuis, Pgh	9	13	22
St. Louis, TB	9	13	22
Getzlaf, Ana	6	16	22
O'Reilly, Col	6	16	22
P.Bergeron, Bos	5	17	22
M.Bergeron, TB	3	19	22
Callahan, NYR	12	9	21
E.Cole, Mtl	11	10	21
Couture, SJ	11	10	21
Duchene, Col	11	10	21
Iginla, Cal	11	10	21
Lecavalier, TB	11	10	21
Marleau, SJ	11	10	21
Heatley, Minn	9	12	21
Kovalchuk, NJ	9	12	21
Nash, Clb	9	12	21
Ovechkin, Wash	9	12	21
O.Jokinen, Cal	8	13	21
Kesler, Vcr	7	14	21
Byfuglien, Wpg	6	15	21

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
WEEK 15
Tonight's game
All times Eastern
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's game
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
New Orleans at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Par 72
First Round

Lotta Wahlin	30-36—66
Becky Brewerton	33-34—67
Minea Blomqvist	34-34—68
Julieta Granada	33-35—68
Stacy Lee Bregman	35-33—68
Linda Wessberg	34-34—68
Jaclyn Sweeney	33-36—69
Lee-Anne Pace	35-34—69
Elizabeth Bennett	32-37—69
Christel Boeljon	33-36—69
Tandi Cuningham	32-37—69
Julie Maisongrosse	33-36—69
Diana Luna	32-37—69
Maria Verchenova	34-35—69
Beth Allen	33-36—69
Liebelei Lawrence	37-33—70
Margherita Rigon	35-35—70
Becky Morgan	37-33—70
Sophie Giquel-Bettan	35-35—70
Stacey Keating	35-35—70
Alexis Thompson	35-35—70
Alison Walshe	33-37—70
Karen Lunn	35-35—70
Charlie Douglass	32-38—70
Elisabeth Esterl	36-34—70
Cassandra Kirkland	34-36—70
Caroline Afonso	36-34—70
Caroline Westrup	34-36—70
Lynnette Brooky	36-35—71
Carlota Ciganda	34-37—71
Kaisa Ruuttila	36-35—71
Louise Larsson	37-34—71
Sara Brown	34-37—71
Sophie Gustafson	34-37—71
Rachel Jennings	37-34—71
Also	
Michelle Wie	37-36—73
Laura Davies	37-38—75
Anna Nordqvist	37-38—75

SOCCER

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

At Toyota, Japan
Yesterday's results
SEMIFINAL
Santos (Brazil) 3 Kashiwa Reysol (Japan) 1
FIFTH PLACE
Monterrey (Mexico) 3 Esperance (Tunisia) 2

EUROPA LEAGUE

Yesterday's results
Group D
FC Zurich (Switzerland) 2 Vaslui (Romania) 0
Lazio (Italy) 2 Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0
Group E
Besiktas (Turkey) 3 Stoke City (England) 1
Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr.) 3 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr.) 3
Group F
Paris St-Germain (Fra.) 4 Athletic Bilbao (Spn.) 2
Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 2 Salzburg (Austria) 3
Group J
Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 0 Schalke (Germany) 3
Steaua Bucharest (Rom.) 3 AEK Larnaca (Cyp.) 1
Group K
Fulham (England) 2 Odense (Denmark) 2
Wisla Krakow (Poland) 2 Twente (Neth.) 1
Group L
Anderlecht (Blg.) 5 Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus.) 3
Sturm Graz (Austria) 1 AEK Athens (Greece) 3

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms with LHP Tsuyoshi Wada on a two-year contract.
K.C. ROYALS—Released RHP Mario Santiago.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Takashi Saito on a 1-year contract.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Named Dave Hajek infield co-ordinator; Kevin Riggs hitting coach for Tulsa (Texas); Jon Stone hitting coach for Modesto (Cal); Mike Devereaux hitting coach for Asheville (SAL) and Drew Saylor hitting coach for Grand Junction (Pioneer).
HOUSTON ASTROS—Acquired INF Jed Lowrie & RHP Kyle Weiland from Boston for RHP Mark Melancon. Designated INF Brian Bixler for assignment.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with 3B Aramis Ramirez on a 3-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with SS Rafael Furcal on a two-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Signed G Jerome Randle.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Signed F Josh McRoberts to a two-year contract.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Signed C Marc Gasol.
MIAMI HEAT—Waived G Cameron Jones.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed G J.J. Barea to a four-year contract.

FOOTBALL

CFL

EDMONTON ESKIMOS—Re-signed FB Mathieu Bertrand to a two-year contract.

NFL

DALLAS COWBOYS—Placed QB Jon Kitna on injured reserve. Signed WR Dwayne Harris from the practice squad. Signed QB Chris Greisen to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed S Sterling Moore to practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Announced defensive co-ordinator Wade Phillips took medical leave.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed LB Michael Wilhoite to the practice squad. Released RB Ian Johnson from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled G Justin Peters from Charlotte (AHL). Reassigned G Mike Murphy to Charlotte.
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled RW Michael Blunden from Hamilton (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled D Tim Erixon from Connecticut (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Sent D Evan Oberg to Norfolk (AHL). Reassigned D Charles Landry from Norfolk to Florida (ECHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Reassigned D Arturs Kulda to the St. John's (AHL).

SOCCER

MLS

PORTLAND TIMBERS—Named Mike Toshack goalkeeper coach.

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Darvish bidding derby concludes

Blues Jays rumoured to be front-runners to win signing rights to sign Japanese right-hander

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, bidding for highly coveted Japanese free agent Yu Darvish was closed.

All major-league teams were allowed to submit sealed bids to the Nippon Ham Fighters, with copies to Major League Baseball and the Japanese Professional League.

Only one team will emerge victorious through the posting system and no re-bids are allowed. The Blue Jays are rumoured to be front-runners, along with the Texas Rangers.

Toronto is believed to be going all-in for a guy who as early as next season could fit 2-3 behind Ricky Romero and Brandon Morrow.

According to Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos, the winning bid will be announced on Dec. 22 at 5 p.m.

After the announcement, a 30-day negotiating window opens. If the negotiations are conducted in good faith and if Darvish does not sign a contract, he returns to Nippon and plays out his contract, becoming unrestricted after the 2014 season.

The money sent to the Japanese team will be returned to the foiled bidder.

The Jays have the ability to wait well into January on a signing decision by the 25-year-old. Ownership at Rogers Communications has the ability to pay Darvish as much as anyone in baseball. Fans are expecting the effort.

Darvish is good, he's impressive and he's ready. The charismatic right-hander is arguably the best free agent starting pitcher available from this year's crop, better even than left-handers C.J. Wilson and Mark Buehrle. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Posting history

Heading into this off-season, 15 players had been posted in Japan.

- Eight signed major-league contracts, three received no bids, three inked minor-league deals and only one returned to Japan after failed negotiations.
- Stars Ichiro Suzuki, Kei Igawa, Dice-K Matsuzaka, Aki Iwamura, Aki Otsuka and Kaz Ishii all came to MLB through the posting system.

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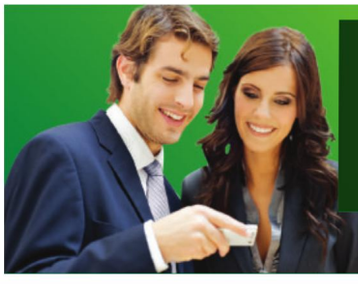

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Liles's contributions anything but low-key

THE HOCKEY NEWS

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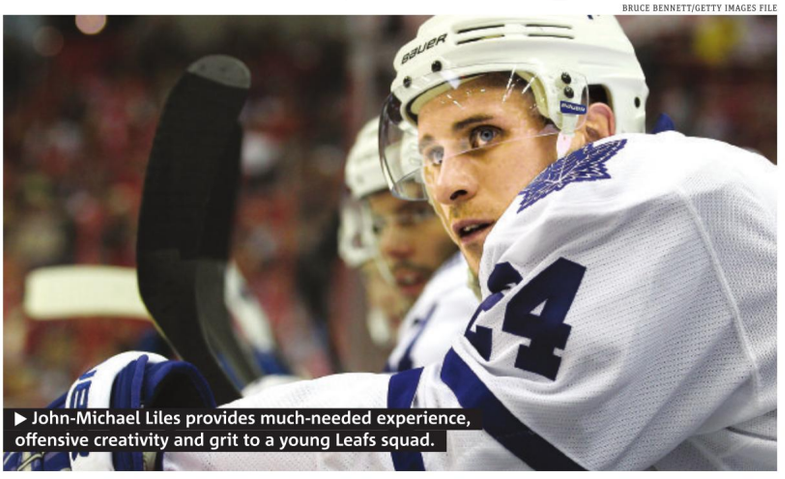
Most of the spotlight and credit for the strong start of this year's Maple Leafs has rightfully gone to Phil Kessel, Joffrey Lupul, Dion Phaneuf and Jake Gardiner. But there's one guy who doesn't get enough credit — veteran defenceman John-Michael Liles.

Take a look at the fifth-leading scorer on Toronto's roster right now. It isn't high-priced off-season acquisition Tim Connolly (although if he has another couple nights like he did against Carolina Tuesday, he'll be there soon enough). It isn't anyone from the Mikhail-Grabovski-Nikolai-Kulemin-Clarke-MacArthur line that was the Leafs' best last season. No, No. 5 is Liles, who was traded to Toronto from Colorado in the summer and is playing at the relative bargain rate salary cap hit of $4.2 million.

If you're counting nickels and dimes as all NHL GMs do in the cap era, Liles (whose 14 assists and 17 points are one point behind Phaneuf among Toronto point-getters) will make $50,000 less than what former Leaf Tomas Kaberle will earn — okay, "allegedly" earn — for this season and each of the next two years.

But it isn't just offence that Liles is providing. He's

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ John-Michael Liles provides much-needed experience, offensive creativity and grit to a young Leafs squad.

tougher than Kaberle was on his most ornery day in Blue and White, and at age 31, he's the senior member of the squad and one of only four Leafs with 30 NHL playoff games or more under his belt. The Leafs' current group of players has played a combined 290 NHL playoff games. Detroit legend Nicklas Lidstrom has 258 career NHL playoff games played himself. That shows (a) that GM Brian Burke likely will have to address Toronto's lack of experience; and (b) that Liles' 36 games of post-season play will be important to the group.

Liles is scheduled to be an unrestricted free agent at the end of this season, but don't be surprised to see Burke lock him up to a three-or-four-year contract extension. The organization likes him very much — and as we've seen with the ridiculous contract Kaberle signed with Carolina before the Hurricanes came to their senses and traded him, the free agent market can warp any above-average blue-liner's actual value.

To get him signed likely will take a multi-year deal in the $5 million-a-season range, but right now, Liles is playing like he's worth it. On a young Leafs squad, he's become a vital vet in short order.

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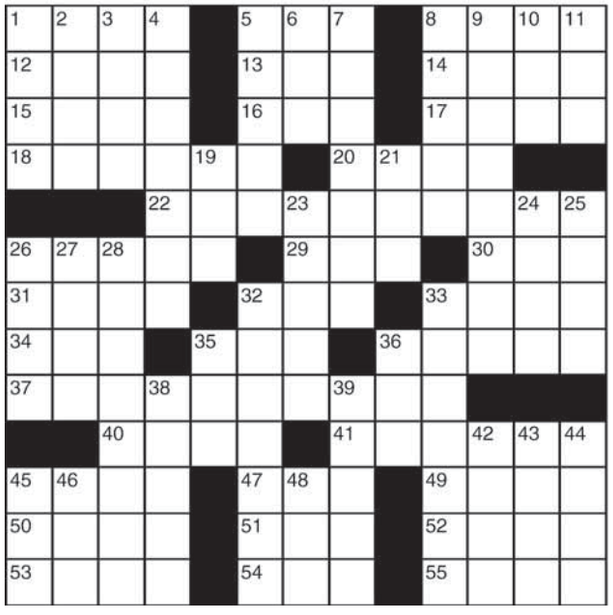
Crossword



Across

1 Call a halt to
5 Moreover
8 Spare tire
12 Lima's land
13 Island souvenir
14 Anger
15 Right on the map?
16 Energy
17 It takes the cake
18 Squat down
20 Lounge around
22 Steinway accessory
26 Winter warmer
29 Ostrich's cousin
30 Payable
31 Crazy one
32 Gabor or Mendes
33 Frau's mate
34 Submachine gun
35 Chopping tool
36 Heart line?
37 Weightlifting maneuver
40 Brat's stocking stuffer
41 Meager
45 Met melody
47 Chances, for short
49 Midday
50 Covers
51 A Gershwin
52 Fragrant oil source
53 Versifier
54 Plaything
55 — and crafts

Down

1 Detail, for short
2 Rip
3 Approximately
4 Taken advantage of
5 Greek leader?
6 Born
7 Sheepskin
8 Reached 32 degrees, maybe
9 Light purple shade
10 Time of your life?
11 Quarterback Roethlisberger
19 Spy novel org.
21 — Dhabi
23 When pigs fly
24 Rudely brief
25 Zeus' consort
26 Organization
27 Leak slowly
28 Agree
32 Use
33 Cry of acclamation
35 "Eureka!"
36 Cleo's slayer
38 Move on momentum
39 English homework, maybe
42 Lion's call
43 Type
44 Tackles' teammates
45 Height for Heidi
46 Carnival city
48 Expert

▶ Yesterday's answer

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

3			9		4			1
	1		2		3		6	
		6				9		
		3	6		8	5		
2								6
		1	4		7	8		
		2				3		
	4		1		6		9	
9			5		2			7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	5	8	7	4	9	1	2	3
1	3	9	2	8	5	6	4	7
2	7	4	3	1	6	8	5	9
4	9	6	1	3	7	5	8	2
8	2	7	6	5	4	9	3	1
3	1	5	8	9	2	4	7	6
5	6	3	9	2	8	7	1	4
9	4	2	5	7	1	3	6	8
7	8	1	4	6	3	2	9	5

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Nice face! You're really sweet! That's all I really need to say. My social awkwardness may keep me from asking you out for a while, but you're just too darn pretty to worry about that. **WEEKDAYGROWLERFILLER**

Youmattie, You are a dream I do not wish to wake. But if I must wake, let me wake with a Kiss. **TERENCE**

My wonderful Prince Charming, you are my unique and true love! You are my endless love! You are my destiny! I believe that fate has brought us together til the end of time! You are a gift from heaven! and today is my b-day..I am blessed and lucky to be loved by you! Thank you for loving me so much, for your support and in believing and trusting in me... I love you so much. **C.L. FOREVER YOUR PRINCESS**

Today's horoscope

Aries March 21-April 20 So many things are going right for you now that it's like you have a guardian angel watching over you.

Taurus April 21-May 21 An investment you made a long time ago may pay off today.

Gemini May 22-June 21 Make the effort to remind the people who mean the most to you how much you care for them.

Cancer June 22-July 22 Take care with your thoughts today, because what you focus on will very soon become your reality. Think only happy thoughts.

Leo July 23-Aug.23 Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius makes it easy for you to persuade friends and rivals to give you what you need.

Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 If you're not careful, you could find yourself swept away on a tide of other people's negative feelings.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will say something outrageous today — and you will be applauded for it.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If someone says you need to prove your friendship by spending money, you're being take on ride.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Whatever target it is you are aiming at, you will hit it with ease.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You know instinctively that what someone is telling you is a lie. Just turn your back and walk away.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 This is a great day for reaching out to people you have not seen in a while. Renew those old friendships.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You'll get the opportunity to make a powerful friend today. Don't try to be modest about your talents.

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